

Good afternoon, Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Hayden, and members of the committee, For the record, my name is Megan Dethloff, and I am an Identification Technician with the Portland Police Bureau.

I have worked in my current position with the Portland Police Bureau for a little over three years. Prior to this role, I worked for Multnomah County as a Correction Technician in the Records and Recognition Unit for approximately four years. Both positions were based in jail settings.

As an Identification Technician, my duties include fingerprinting, identity verification, and maintaining accurate identification records for individuals in custody. We also triage incoming calls from law enforcement officers and investigative units and document detailed information related to criminal incidents. These incidents may include officer-involved shootings, sexual assaults, homicides, and traffic fatalities. The information we collect is used for investigative, prosecutorial, and court purposes.

Identification Technicians perform these duties both inside and outside of jail settings. The position involves regular exposure to sensitive and traumatic information through calls received from officers in the field and from the Medical Examiner's Office. This exposure occurs as part of routine job responsibilities.

In addition, Identification Technicians process juveniles who are taken into custody and require fingerprinting prior to transport to juvenile detention facilities. This work is conducted outside of the jail environment and may involve individuals who are uncooperative, present hygiene and or medical concerns.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which aligns Identification Technicians and other public safety classifications into PERS Police and Fire. Employees performing comparable duties for other public employers across Oregon are already classified under PERS Police and Fire.

SB 1569 addresses benefit equity among public safety employees performing similar duties in similar work environments. Differences in retirement classification impact recruitment and retention when job responsibilities, working conditions, and exposure levels are comparable.

I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,
Megan Dethloff
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