

Good morning, Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Sean Cooley. I am a Forensic Identification Technician with the Portland Police Bureau. I've been with the Bureau since 2018 and in the Forensics Evidence Division since 2021.

In my current role, I am responsible for identifying every individual arrested and brought into the Multnomah County Jail system. This includes fingerprinting and identity verification during the booking process. This work is hands-on and public-facing, and it regularly involves close contact with individuals who may be uncooperative, intoxicated, or in crisis.

I work inside secure booking environments alongside sworn and custody staff. These interactions carry real safety risks and frequent exposure to unpredictable behavior and bodily fluids. Accurate identification is critical to public safety, mistakes can affect officer safety, court proceedings, and the rights of both victims and those in custody. While this work often happens behind the scenes, it's foundational to the criminal justice system working the way it's supposed to.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which would align positions like mine into the PERS Police and Fire classification. Many Forensic Identification Technicians across Oregon already receive this classification while performing substantially similar work. The difference is not the job, it is the employer.

This is about recognizing the reality of the work. We operate in secure booking environments, handle physical fingerprinting, and deal directly with people in custody under unpredictable conditions. Positions with similar exposure and responsibilities are already classified as Police and Fire elsewhere in Oregon, and this bill brings consistency to that.

SB 1569 recognizes the reality of the work we do and brings needed equity across similar classifications. I respectfully urge the committee to vote yes.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Sean Cooley  
Portland, OR