

January 13, 2025

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

For the record, my name is Scott Fortner and I am a Police Identification Technician at the Portland Police Bureau.

- I've worked in this position for 12.5 years.
- Common daily duties for my position include fingerprinting both adults and juveniles during the booking process, identifying booked individuals by fingerprint comparison, and affecting identifications through mobile capture devices for multiple law enforcement agencies in the area which also includes the Medical Examiner's Office.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which aligns Police Identification Technicians into PER's Police and Fire. Like many classifications in this bill, our counterparts employed by other employers across the state already receive this enhanced retirement benefit.

My position not only has to have one on one contact with individuals in the jail who are frequently angry and combative or struggling with mental health issues, as they are being booked, we are also considered essential employees by our bureau. This means that regardless of weather, protest or pandemic we are required to report to our facility and do this work so that people may be properly released or housed 24 hours a day. Just like law enforcement officers, our job exposes us to the dangers and difficulties involved with police activity. This bill will allow us to be treated with the same consideration as anyone else who works in a one on one capacity with criminal offenders. Due to the nature of our work many people do not stay in the position since it can be physically and emotionally demanding and passage of SB1569 will help incentivize people to take on and stay with this job classification.

I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,

Scott Fortner

Portland, 97204