

February 1, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Heather Erickson, and I work for the Portland Police Bureau. I have been an ID Tech for 2 years and in that short time I have seen and experienced my fair share of unpleasantness and risk.

While performing my duties, I regularly work with individuals that are drunk and/or under the influence of other intoxicants. I often get leaned into where there is contact between our bodies while printing them or I am basically holding them upright by their hands. Many people that come in are suffering from mental health issues whose behavior can be erratic and unpredictable. Many people are transient and without the resources to bathe regularly. With everyone we print we are side by side, our faces inches away from each other. I have had contact with people that have had feces, bodily fluids, bugs, blood, and other substances on their person.

I have fingerprinted the worst of our society: murderers, child abusers, animal abusers, perpetrators of domestic violence, and rapists.

I have printed violent offenders and had to wipe the blood of their victim from their hands. On multiple other occasions I have printed people that had to remain restrained in handcuffs due to the risk they posed.

I have not been an ID Tech for very long, and I already have stories to share. Not every inmate is violent and not every inmate is a physical threat, but I know that I am often near and/or handling someone that can seriously harm me.

I am here today in support of SB 1569. Fingerprinting inside a correctional facility carries the same inherent occupational risks, physical "wear and tear," and psychological toll as positions already covered under PERS Police and Fire. Our counterparts across the state already receive this retirement benefit for the same work.

I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,

Heather Erickson