

February 2, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Randal Yoshimura. Thank you for considering the inclusion of Identification Technicians under Oregon SB 1569. I have served as an ID Tech for five years, following years working as a police officer. I want to share why the work we perform aligns with the intent of this bill.

During my law enforcement career, I frequently worked alongside ID Techs and came to respect their professionalism and the unique pressures of their job. After joining the unit myself, I quickly realized that the level of risk, responsibility, and direct inmate contact involved in this role is far greater than most people outside a correctional environment understand.

As an ID Tech, one of my responsibilities is to record the fingerprints of inmates booked into jail. ID Techs routinely stand in close physical contact with inmates accused of a variety of crimes - including violent person crimes. Fingerprinting requires us to hold their hands and maintain physical proximity that would be considered high risk in any other law-enforcement context. Exposure to bodily fluids, lice, suspected MRSA, scabies, and other health hazards is common. Many inmates are intoxicated, unpredictable, or in mental health crisis.

As a police officer, I was trained extensively in officer-safety principles—maintaining distance, watching hands, reading body language, and keeping a defensive stance. As an ID Tech, none of those safeguards are possible. To perform our duties, we must:

- Stand extremely close to inmates, often with unavoidable physical contact.
- Use both hands to fingerprint while the inmate always has at least one hand free.
- Focus on the fingerprint Livescan monitor, limiting our ability to monitor their movements.

These conditions place ID Techs in a uniquely high-risk environment that mirrors the safety demands placed on other positions already classified as “police officers” under SB1569.

SB 1569 recognizes that certain public safety roles involve elevated risk and direct responsibility for the safety and security of correctional operations. Identification Technicians seem to meet that standard. Our work is essential to the criminal justice

process, performed under hazardous conditions, and requires the same level of personal risk that the bill seeks to acknowledge.

Despite these challenges, I am proud of the role we play in the justice system. I respectfully urge you to support the inclusion of Identification Technicians under SB 1569. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Randal Yoshimura