



March 9th, 2021

House Judiciary Subcommittee on Equitable Policing  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3355

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Noble and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama and I am here representing the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,415 members statewide. We are here today in support of HB 3355.

Beginning in June of 2020, our staff, along with many other activists and media, began noticing a shift in how law enforcement presented themselves in protests. What was once a common practice of displaying identification on uniforms became almost non-existent, and hundreds of protesters each night were unable to identify the officers they were interacting with, and in some cases, the officers who were using excessive force<sup>1</sup>. We submit for the record several photographs our Communications Associate took which outline many examples of this shift in transparency and accountability (Appendix A).

In some instances, some Portland officers had no unique identifiers on the front of their uniforms (no names, no numbers). Some officers had small slips of paper with six to eight-digit numbers – some written by hand, some printed – taped on their uniforms where their names used to be. Law enforcement officers from the MCSO remained equally opaque with names and did not use any numbers on the front. This lack of transparency is unacceptable, and we support HB 3355 so that the display of names and IDs can become standardized moving forward.

We have greatly appreciated Senator Manning and Representative Bynum's leadership in pulling together the workgroup on this bill and in inviting us to the table. We've made significant progress on the development of a bill to create a statewide standard for officers' uniforms, and two amendments we'd like to see included are:

1. Because a vast majority of these protests and incidents of police brutality occur at night, we recommend including in SECTION 2. (2) "The requirements described in subsection (1) of this section shall be affixed in a manner that makes the letters and numbers clearly

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<https://www.wweek.com/news/2020/10/07/three-people-who-attended-portland-protests-say-they-reco-gnize-the-helmet-number-of-an-officer-who-struck-a-black-homeowner/>



visible during the day as well as at night". Reflective lettering is ideal so that the intent of transparency behind this bill is ensured.

2. Inclusion of an accountability mechanism. Perhaps the most important part of developing a new standard like this is ensuring compliance and accountability. Without an accountability mechanism included in this bill, we remain convinced that the implementation and enforcement of this new standard simply will not occur.

**With these proposed amendments, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3355.**

Thank you,

Andrea Valderrama, Policy Director  
ACLU of Oregon

Appendix A

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Communications Associate Photos

Below are photos I've taken since 2016 that show how officers have been identified at protests.

Portland police officers at the Justice Center on February 8, 2020



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You'll see the same style of identification in photos I've taken over the years. For example, here is a photograph of Portland police officers in October 2016

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In these photographs of MCSO employees I took on February 8, 2020, you can even see the velcro patch where name badges are intended to be placed (circled):



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These photographs from July 13 are more representative of how Portland police officers identified themselves at protests from late June through the election.

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On Wednesday, November 4, the National Guard was deployed to Portland. I observed no one from the national guard with a name badge or personally-identifiable numbers on their uniforms.