

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office**  
“Advocating Equality and Diversity”  
421 SW Oak Street, Portland, OR 97204  
O 503.302.9725  
Email: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)

House Committee On Judiciary  
House Subcommittee On Equitable Policing  
January 27, 2021

**Oregon Advocacy Commissions Joint Testimony in Support  
HB 2932 re: database on physical force**

Chair Representative Bynum, Vice-Chair Representative Noble, and  
Representatives Dexter, Lewis, and Wilde,

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and Commission for Women have invested decades of service to Oregon, providing public policy advising and advocacy, applied policy research, and leadership in the areas of disproportionate punishments, health and health care including mental health care, and education as well as other areas. We have actively pursued, with partners in community and government, data-driven and community-based solutions to the violence and illness that have blighted our communities and are crippling all of Oregon. We represent intersectional, and diverse voices of lived experience and expertise to provide an essential focus on the current crises of public health and policing. We believe that this is the moment for all of us, in community, business, and government, to make changes about what defines us as a state and as communities: safer, healthier, fairer and more just.

**The Advocacy Commissions have prepared a Joint Statement reflecting our shared goals and commitment to Civil Rights and Community Accountability on which we base our support of HB 2932 as a needed database to gauge and track the use of force among officers in community and within correction facilities and craft informed remedies.** Without this type of reporting, tracking, and analysis there can be no full understanding of the systemic violence that have blighted our communities, and harmed our citizens, too often to death where other means of de-escalation and other modalities lead to better outcomes for all. Also, officers who routinely use force or are disciplined for over-use of force can be identified and tracked internally as they move from precinct to precinct or town to town, bringing their violence with them. Our statement voices our conviction that we must engage on social and public problems in a way that respects, protects, preserves and defends the humanity of Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, immigrants, refugees, and marginalized communities throughout Oregon.

**OR Commission on Asian and  
Pacific Islander Affairs**

Hussein Al-Baiaty, Co-Chair  
Mohamed Alyajouri, Co-Chair  
Jessica Asai, VC  
Legislative members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

Lawanda Manning, Chair  
Mariotta Gary-Smith, VC  
Legislative member:  
Senator James I. Manning

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Irma Linda Castillo, Chair  
Gustavo Morales, VC  
Legislative member:  
Rep. Andrea Salinas

**OR Commission for Women**

Kassandra Krifka, Chair  
Dr. Maura Kelly, VC  
Legislative members:  
Rep. Sheri Schouten

**Staff**

Lucy Baker, Administrator  
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant  
Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey,  
Researcher/Policy Analyst

To understand these times and the complexities regarding historically marginalized communities, we believe that:

- Policing is part of a broader set of systemic failures with disproportionate, dismal consequences for people of color, women and trauma survivors, and other marginalized communities.
- Triage is a response to crisis. It demands worst cases must be treated first.
- Justice and Equity require policies that are explicitly addressed to eliminating bias and providing the support necessary.
- Incremental efforts to change have proven ineffective and can no longer claim a constituency based in reason.

To address these issues is to lift decades of disparity and injustice, and cannot wait. Hence, we have supported bills and local policies that:

**Public Policy Recommendations:**

1. Ban chokeholds and all forms of neck restraints.
2. Curb the use of no-knock warrants to protect the lives of innocent people.
3. Shrink the scope of police responsibilities. Shifting responsibilities to entities and persons better equipped by training and experience to meet that need (e.g., social workers, school counselors).
4. Rebuild budgets to restructure investment in mental health and public health by shifting responsibility and funding towards
  - a. Methods and practices of violence interruption and
  - b. Community-based services of de-escalation of violence and mediation
  - c. Collaboration with care coordination, behavioral health supports, and other public health benefits that exist through Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO's)/health plan partners.
5. De-militarizing our communities and our schools. Officers must be trained to see themselves as guardians of civil society, not as warriors battling civilians. Over-policing through school resource officers (SROs) has not been shown to make schools safer, instead increasing suspensions, expulsions, and arrests, especially among students of color. Children cannot be targets of police action, however well intentioned, without lasting trauma to the school, the child and their families. There are other professionals better trained and equipped for that.
6. Ban officers with a history of racial bias, violence, or serious disciplinary actions from employment in policing and future public employment in any state agency. Documented histories of such must disqualify any applicant from all state public employment.
7. Require police departments to refuse donations from foundations that support race discrimination or militarization or do not survive the same scrutiny as the police department itself.
8. De-incarceration with a commitment to rehabilitation and re-entry support including provision of job training, housing and supportive care.

9. Require training or credentialing for police officers on de-escalation strategies and tactics of no less than 20 weeks. Track training completion, metrics, and key performance indicators of success for individual officers and overall.
10. Ban use of tear gas and rubber bullets as crowd control strategies. The significant injury and harm these militaristic weapons cause is reprehensible and devastating to community members who are struck by these airborne devices.
- 11. Establish needed data bases, tracking, and analysis of community/prison policing efforts in ways that promote best practices, reduce or eliminate violence in policing, identify training based on actual analysis and need, and provide a foundation of data for aligned remedies and actions.**

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions support the legislature in its ongoing work for police reform, and look forward to working in partnership. We strongly support HB 2932 as a necessary foundation for informed decision-making around reforms, and specifically, use of force.

In solidarity,



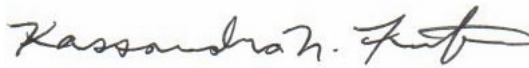
Lawanda Manning, OCBA Chair



Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair



Hussein Al-Baiaty and Mohamed Alyajouri  
OCAPIA Co-Chairs



Kassandra Krifka  
OCFW Chair

Links to resources & information:

OHEA: <https://mailchi.mp/350bb9743679/ohea-reflections-and-resources-Blacklivesmatter?e=a98519540c>

Coalition for Communities of Color: <https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/ccc-news/5-29-openletter>

Governor Brown: <https://www.myoregon.gov/2020/06/04/oregon-resources-racial-justice/>