



**Testimony in Support of SB 621
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
May 5, 2021**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Last November, Portland voters overwhelmingly passed Measure 26-217 with a 4-to-1 margin. The measure championed an independent law enforcement oversight board, aiming to hold officers accountable through; access to records, ability to compel witness statements, and the authority to discipline (including termination) law enforcement officers.

SB 621 is **vital** to the implementation of Measure 26-217, empowering local cities to implement a voter approved police oversight board with the ability to hold law enforcement officers responsible for their actions.

As nationwide calls for police accountability amount, the implementation of SB 621 would allow for true citizen engagement in protecting their communities by holding law enforcement officers who practice misconduct in any way accountable.

Any case of excessive force, brutality or death at the hands of a taxpayer funded civil servant **must** be justly evaluated. There is absolutely no place in law enforcement for officers who abuse their power, perpetrate harm in our communities or who carry out public extrajudicial murder.

Along with the majority of voters, **Oregon AFSCME Council 75 strongly supports SB 621 to protect Oregonian families and hold law enforcement officers accountable for any and all misconduct, brutality and other offenses.**

The voters have spoken, and we stand to support their voice and our communities.

We urge you to stand with Oregonians and vote YES on SB 621.

Thank you.