

Dear Senator Kathleen Taylor,

My family strongly supports the passage of HB 2929-A4. The -A4 amendment will ensure public access to police disciplinary records and protect Oregonians from unchecked police misconduct. Our state is one of only 9 that keep police misconduct records strictly confidential, and thus we urgently need stronger police accountability measures. Transparency in disciplinary procedures is one proven to reform an opaque system. I would call transparency an essential step in reforming policing.

Not knowing whether police departments are handling complaints against officers effectively or sweeping them under the rug means that violent behavior, arrests based on racial profiling, sexual harassment, and more slip under the radar. This behavior by those sworn to protect us is uncalled for, and often all too common.

The -A4 amendment will provide transparency, which is key to establishing trust between police and the people they serve -- the bedrock of effective community policing

There are many other reasons for passing HB 2929-A4, but this one is sufficient in and of itself. Again, I urge you to pass HB 2929-A4.

Signed, Theresa and Gillian Beck van Heemstra, Portland OR 97215