

House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
Committee on Judiciary, Oregon State Legislature
Dear Members:

I gladly support passage of HB 3145, which establishes a publicly-accessible database on police misconduct and discipline. The Innocence Project, which is working to pass HB 3145, described the consequences of protecting a police force from public accountability:

"Police misconduct can lead to wrongful convictions, and secrecy laws that protect those officers leave the public in the dark about information that could prevent future miscarriages of justice. . . . Often, when police misconduct is uncovered in a wrongful conviction case, a subsequent review of that officer's other cases reveals several more wrongful convictions and a litany of complaints related to street encounters with law enforcement. . . . [B]y the time this history of misconduct is discovered, communities may have endured preventable abuse on the streets while others may have been wrongfully incarcerated for years."

I hope that the House Judiciary Committee will repeal the personnel file exemption in the state's open records law, and let in some sunlight on police misconduct procedures.

Sincerely,
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