

Submitter: Michelle Stevenson
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB808

My name is Michelle Stevenson. I was born and raised in Oregon and I speak for myself. I support SB808.

I have watched the zoom videos of most of the LESC meetings and watched all the public listening sessions. It was difficult to watch the listening sessions. The community told such wrenching stories, including some mothers who had lost their adult children to police violence. The current commission didn't even attend. For those that spoke, they wrenched open wounds to speak frankly and prevent the same harm visited on them happening to someone else. For their effort they were left with flat-faced indifference from the two Commission members that did attend.

It is not clear at all that the rest of the commission even listened to public testimony.

In February a staff member of LESC removed the public comments and videos of the listening sessions from the main LESC website and put them under a hyperlink titled "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) Archives." That makes no sense unless the staff member was actively trying to hide the words of survivors.

I support strong accountability measures for the police, including in situations of sexual assault. I can state that in almost every case I have seen that has gone public concerning sexual assault by police the police have not expressed concern for the survivor, they expressed concern about how they look, then they often try to silence the survivor. Silencing victims is not good for Oregonians, it ensures that this kind of criminality will continue forever and that citizens will be continued to be hurt badly. Imagine how you would feel if your daughter were raped by a policeman and the officer got a written reprimand for bad judgment!

We need voices in the LESC commission that will shatter the echo chamber and honor the voices of community members who have been criminally assaulted by those they should have been able to trust. We need voices on the commission that, when a sexual assault by police happens they think, "How terrible! I hope this person can heal and knows they are loved and cared for and safe now!" and not "darn it, this makes police look bad. We'd better make this lady shut up. Let's go follow her and her kid around as they go to the zoo. She definitely won't notice us following her in our white Ford F650."

We do not currently have voices on the commission that think of the community member first. I hope that the changes in SB808 can create a commission that honors

community members.

Thank you for hearing me. Have a nice day.