



February 22, 2021

House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3145

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, and Members of the Subcommittee,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ appreciates the opportunity to share our support for HB 3145 and the continued discussion of transparency of public safety disciplinary records.

Deep-seated systemic racism and inequities that disadvantage Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) are woven into the fabric of our institutions today— from education, housing, and health care to our criminal justice and legal systems. Transformation of these institutions is desperately needed, as is transparency.

We believe that a transparent government is the cornerstone of democracy-- and is vital in increasing public trust. Over the years, the ACLU of Oregon has advocated for increased access to public records and made clear our belief that transparency is in the best interest of the public.

We supported HB 4207 during the first special session of 2020 that created a database for suspensions and revocations and believe the legislature should advance the more extensive database outlined in HB 3145. Including disciplinary proceedings, records, and actions; complaints, allegations, and charges; criminal charges and civil proceedings, and relevant documents will help provide the public with a clear picture of public safety officers in communities across our state.

Section 3, (1)(g) provides helpful clarifications that the database will still include relevant information even if an employee resigns while a complaint or investigation is pending. This provision will prevent public safety employees from resigning to circumvent the database, only to be rehired in another jurisdiction.

We look forward to continuing to work with this subcommittee to transform policing in Oregon. A more robust public database, as outlined in HB 3145, is a great place to begin that transformative work.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3145.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights. We have more than 28,415 members and supporters in the State of Oregon, and that number is growing as we speak.