

February 27, 2023

RE: Voting Yes on SHB 1025

Dear Washington State House of Representatives Members:

The undersigned organizations fully support SHB 1025, and urge you to vote yes and pass it off the floor of the House of Representatives.

HB 1025 is necessary for Washingtonians to be able to use the protections and promises of the Washington State Constitution. Our state courts have said that in order for a person to bring a claim under the State Constitution, the legislature must first pass implementing legislation. HB 1025 is that legislation.

What HB 1025 does is provide access to our state courts for police misconduct that violates the Washington State constitution or key state laws. Right now, these families and victims bear the burden of the wrongs that have occurred. After the recent horrific killing of Tyre Nichols in Tennessee, his family now bears the costs of hospital bills, funeral expenses, the continuing costs of trauma, and financial support for his child – it's unfair. Victims of police violence shouldn't also face financial hardships when their rights are violated. This bill places responsibility where it belongs: on the entity causing the harm. Under this law victims have the opportunity to receive compensation for the harms suffered and for medical bills and other expenses they have incurred.

We believe this accountability will improve relationships between communities and local governments. Legislators have stepped up to take the issue of police accountability seriously and yet there are local officials who have the daily responsibility for providing law enforcement services who have not done the same. There is a need for accountable partners, and until there is a mandate for accountability, we have no reason to believe behavior will change. SHB 1025 is key to this.

Thank you for voting yes on SHB 1025.

Sincerely,

A. Philip Randolph Institute Seattle Chapter  
ACLU Washington  
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)  
Alliance for Gun Responsibility  
APIC Spokane (Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Spokane)  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
BIPOC ED Coalition of Washington State  
CAIR WA (Council on American-Islamic Relations Washington Chapter)

Campaign to End Qualified Immunity  
Campaign Zero  
Clark County Justice Group  
Columbia Legal Services  
Disability Rights Washington  
Everytown for Gun Safety  
Faith Action Network  
Food Lifeline  
Fuse Washington  
Galanda Broadman  
Greater Spokane Progress  
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)  
I Did The Time  
Indivisible Eastside  
Indivisible Kirkland  
Indivisible Vashon  
Indivisible WA 08  
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW  
Kent Black Action Commission  
La Resistencia  
Latino Advocacy  
Latino Civic Alliance  
League of Women Voters of Washington  
MAPS AMEN (Muslim Association of Puget Sound)  
Mi Centro  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America - Washington Chapter  
Mothers for Police Accountability  
NAMI Washington  
National Police Accountability Project  
Next Steps Washington  
NWIRP (Northwest Immigrant Rights Project)  
Olympia Indivisible  
OneAmerica  
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington  
Partners for Social Change  
Peace Justice and Action League of Spokane  
People Power Washington  
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates - Washington  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho  
Pro-Choice Washington  
P4 (Proactive Persistent People for Progress)  
Riveters Collective Justice System Committee  
Seattle Community Police Commission  
Seattle Indivisible

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness  
SEIU 775  
SEIU 1199NW  
Showing up for Racial Justice Vashon Maury Criminal Justice Action Team  
Southwest Washington Equity Coalition  
Spokane Community Against Racism  
Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance  
The Black Collective  
The Washington Innocence Project  
Thurston Gun Sense  
Unidos of Snohomish County  
Urban Indians Northwest  
Vancouver for Peace  
Wallingford Indivisible  
Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Washington Coalition for Police Accountability  
Washington Community Alliance  
Washington Defender Association  
Washington for Black Lives  
Washington State Association for Justice