

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



February 6, 2024

Representative Roger Goodman  
Chair, House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee

Representative Tarra Simmons  
Vice Chair, House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee

Re: Request for a public hearing on Initiative 2113

Dear Chair Goodman and Vice Chair Simmons:

We are writing to respectfully request that a public hearing on Initiative 2113 (Concerning vehicular pursuits by peace officers) be scheduled. Over 400,000 Washingtonians signed this initiative, telling us this is important public policy that we should consider. Their voices deserve to be heard in the legislative process.

Article II, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution requires the Legislature to extend "precedence" to certified initiatives to the Legislature. It is settled law that no word in the state constitution may be ignored or rendered superfluous: *Washington Water Power Co. v. Graybar Elec. Co.*, 112 Wn.2d 847, 859 (1989); *Group Health Coop. v. King Cy. Med. Soc'y*, 39 Wn.2d 586, 637 (1951). This constitutional directive to prioritize such initiatives is a binding duty placed upon the Legislature.

Although no case law specifically addresses what "precedence" entails, we believe that at the very least it requires the Legislature to engage in formal consideration of the policy brought before us by the people. The way each chamber begins its formal consideration of a policy is through a public hearing.

As you know, on January 15, House Republicans moved to suspend the rules upon referral to add instructions for the House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee to promptly schedule Initiative 2113 for a public hearing. Every Democratic member voted against this motion. In opposing the motion, the Majority Leader pointed out that initiatives to the Legislature are not subject to cutoff. However, the House Community Safety, Justice, and Reentry Committee has only four meetings scheduled after opposite house policy committee cutoff. Given the compressed schedule in this 60-day legislative session, we urge you to schedule this initiative for a public hearing alongside Senate bills during the normal hearing process after house of origin cutoff.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Representative Gina Mosbrucker in black ink.

Representative Gina Mosbrucker  
Ranking Member, House CSJR Committee

Handwritten signature of Representative Dan Griffey in black ink.

Representative Dan Griffey  
Assistant Ranking Member, House CSJR Committee