

Jacqueline Altamirano

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TO: Joint Committee on Public Safety

FR: Jacqueline Altamirano

DA: April 5, 2013

RE: Support for HB 3194 Public Safety Package and HB 3193 (Juvenile Waiver)

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacqueline Altamirano and I am here today to testify in support of the Oregon Public Safety Package, HB 3194.

I am a student at Portland State University and co-chair of Oregon DREAMers. HB 3194 is important to me because as a student and a community member I support efforts to update and improve Oregon's public safety system. Oregon can balance holding people who commit crimes accountable, and maintaining a high level of public safety with increased efficiencies in the criminal justice system. Improving the public safety system by emphasizing lower cost and more effective policies will allow for reinvestment of public safety dollars to improve services for victims, increase community corrections and other public safety efforts and invest in rehabilitation through increased access to services such as drug treatment.

HB 3194 has the right balance of ensuring that people who commit a crime are held accountable for their actions and, once they have atoned, prioritizes helping them move forward and making a positive contribution to society. We need to get smart on crime by reinvesting in services that would help the community.

The modest proposals developed by the Governor's Commission on Public Safety can prevent 2300 additional prison beds and save over \$600 million the next ten years. \$600 million that we can reinvest in other areas that are extremely important to Oregonians such as a better-funded education system.

Lastly, as a youth of color, I am concerned that measure 11 has been proven to impact youth of color disproportionately. Research on Measure 11 has shown that black youth are unnecessarily being thrown into the adult court and being over-charged for lower level offenses. Latino youth are the most likely to be convicted for their original charge, which suggests there may be serious problems with lack of access to culturally competent legal help and court proceedings. Measure 11 is bad policy and these modest reforms will help bring greater balance to our system, particularly for youth of color

We need to pass HB 3194; I ask your support for HB 3194 and urge the committee to move this package forward. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.