



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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Testimony in support of HB 2661A Joint Committee on Public Safety

Co-Chairs Winters and Williamson, Senators Devlin, Whitsett, and
Reps. Barker and Hanna:

The Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions submit this
testimony in support of HB 2661A, on evaluating disparities in race
and ethnicity of citizens stopped, arrested, and subjected to force by
police officers.

Community safety, policing and access to justice for communities of
color and women is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy
Commissions. This includes the overrepresentation of communities of
color among arrested and incarcerated individuals, and the
underrepresentation of these communities among professionals
serving the public in law enforcement and related fields.

We believe study is needed to better understand the underlying causes
of inequities and to inform policy and other decisions, and improve
the situation for all Oregonians. The Oregon Criminal Justice
Commission and the Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute at
PSU are the right places for both the study and the analysis in our
view. The findings of the study will fill important gaps in
understanding and be helpful to the work of the Commissions and
policy makers.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge the legislature to support
this key study.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Andrea Cano, Chair, OCHA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

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