



CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL ORGANIZING

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Senate Judiciary
5020 N Esperanza Ct
Portland, OR 97203
March 10, 2015

Good morning Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Kayse Jama and I am the Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing, a statewide grassroots organization working to build a strong movement for the rights of immigrants, refugees, and people of color.

I am here to voice our support for SB575 and urge you to support this bill as well. SB575 will increase efficiency by requiring our police to find a probable cause in order to conduct search instead of wasting resources for individuals who are not committed any crime. Conducting wide and unnecessary searches will erode our community trust of police and will infringe on people's fourth amendment rights under our constitution. If there is no probable cause or suspicion that crime has been committed, we believe police officers should not be allowed to search people's homes, vehicles or belongings without first getting a consent and informing individuals of their right to decline the search.

Immigrant and refugees do not understand that they have the constitutional right to refuse officer's request if the officer asks the individual to search their belongings. This bill will allow community members to learn one of the pillars of our constitution: that people can opt out to be searched when there is no probable cause.

Finally, this bill will make Oregon one of the states that has strongest fourth amendment protection in the country. For all of these reasons, we urge you support SB575.

Thank you very much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kayse Jama", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kayse Jama