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TO: Chair Barker
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FR: The Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: **Support for HB 2002 to End Profiling**

March 30, 2015

The Oregon AFL-CIO, representing over 300,000 working Oregonians, is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. As we consider our role as a worker advocate, we will not overlook the disproportionate barriers that some in our communities face and the need to help Oregon become a more inclusive, tolerant place for ALL Oregonians to live and work. Ending the practice of profiling is an important step the state can take to begin to address these issues.

These barriers are incredibly pervasive in the lives of those who face them, effecting access to employment, housing and their sense of safety. In order to even begin addressing the systemic culture that disproportionately effects people of color, and other marginalized communities, the State of Oregon must address the issue of profiling that is the practice of law enforcement using race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender/gender identity as a basis to stop, question or search them.

Oregon is currently one of very few states that have not taken the step of defining profiling. By passing HB 2002, and subsequent amendments from community advocates, the state can take a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of profiling that includes a definition, the collection of data and an enforcement mechanism for dealing with issues that the data points to.

This Committee can play an important role in ensuring that the issue of profiling, which makes Oregon a less inclusive and equitable place to live than we should expect, is addressed in a meaningful way. This state prides itself in being fair and welcoming and HB 2002 can move us further towards that vision.

The Oregon AFL-CIO strongly urges your support for HB 2002 and the efforts to end profiling.