



240 N Broadway Suite 127

Portland OR, 97227

RE: HB 2002

Dear Chair Barker, Vice- Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Roman I am the Health Policy Coordinator with the Oregon Latino Health Coalition we are a state-wide health advocacy organization that works to inform and shape health policy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today.

As a member of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance the Oregon Latino Health Coalition took great interest in this issue because we believe that every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential. As the fabric of Oregon continues to change we know that communities of color and immigrants are 3 times more likely to be stopped by a police. The stress, intimidation and emotional harm profiling may cause is a problem we can collectively work to remedy by taking a first step to support HB 2002.

Profiling happens in every part of the state, in my district, and even in your district with different communities. Profiling is consistent over policing and interaction based on suspicion and not facts. Personally my mother was profiled when the police questioned the validity of her drivers license. The police explained to her that it is a common practice for people to share their driver's license with a family member. In my mothers broken English she explained that this was in fact her driver's license. She took Oregon's Knowledge and Driver test, she paid for the exam and studied hard to earn the privilege to hold a drivers license. The comment that the police officer made would be very different if she were not a Latina immigrant and would not be the same if the interaction was not based on the suspicion about my mother's immigration status.

This is one example of how profiling may occur. Although, the interaction may appear harmless it was a very tense and stressful interaction. We support having a coordinated state policy in place for people to report cases of profiling. Because of

interaction like this and many others we support the amendment that takes the privacy of the individuals seriously by ensuring that both the names of the complainant and the names of the officers will be exempt from public records laws to ensure safety of everyone. We believe this a common sense solution. As there is no statute that defines and prohibits profiling in Oregon.

As a state we have to continue to make strides to ensure that we protect and ensure safe and informed interactions with law enforcement. We recommend the committee to adopt the amendments for HB 2002.

Thank you very much for your time and commitment to these communities,

Linda S. Roman, Health Policy Coordinator
Oregon Latino Health Coalition