

Testimony Before the Oregon House Judiciary committee on House Bill 2002

By

Ramon Ramirez, President of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos Noroeste, (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United)

March 30, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ramon Ramirez, I am speaking on behalf of the membership of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United). PCUN is Oregon's union of farm workers, nursery, and reforestation workers based in Woodburn, Oregon, and is Oregon's largest Latino organization.

PCUN member's work in nurseries, are involved in picking row crops, fruit and vegetables in Oregon's 6 billion agriculture industry, PCUN is also involved in farmworker housing, leadership development through the CAPACES leadership institute and run a 24/7 community radio station that covers the Northern Willamette Valley.

I am here today to strongly support House Bill 2002. Law enforcement's practice of using someone's race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender/gender identity as a basis to stop, question or search them is completely wrong and as no use in our society.

When people are unfairly singled out, it increases fear and distrust of law enforcement. Crime victims and witnesses are less likely to call police or cooperate with investigations. As a person that works with immigrants in rural Oregon, I have found that undocumented immigrants are the most vulnerable to be victims of crimes and are the less likely to report them. Those who are undocumented or have family members and friends who are undocumented fear that any contact with police could lead to deportation and separation from loved ones.

Profiling is humiliating and degrading. Singling people out for stops, detentions, arrests and investigations based on aspects of their identity degrades, humiliates, and alienates them, leaving them feeling like second-class citizens.

We need policies that uphold the human rights of all people, including the constitutional rights to due process, equal treatment, and freedom from discrimination.

We believe that House Bill 2002 is a step in the right direction in requiring the collection of data and brings about more accountability to the community in making our state a better place to live. **We urge passage of HB 2002!**