

From the desk of Representative Susan McLain:  
Rep. Susan McLain



## We Support of HB 2002: End Profiling in Oregon

Our criminal justice system should keep communities safe and treat people fairly, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, homelessness or disability.<sup>1</sup> In addition, for our system to do a good job, it must be cost-effective by using our taxpayer dollars and public resources wisely, in an evidence-based rather than fear-based manner. HB 2002 will help Oregon achieve these aims, by addressing and reducing profiling by law enforcement.

Profiling, by its definition, is unfair because it equates criminality with membership in a particular population. It is based on false assumptions, implicit bias, and broadly-accepted stereotypes. Several significant and negative consequences occur when profiling is prevalent. For example, members of the community lose trust in the system and police officers. That can create all sorts of problems down the line, whether people no longer call for help or are unwilling to cooperate as witnesses in prosecutions. Another consequence of profiling is the misallocation of scarce law enforcement resources. Ultimately, this results in both police officers and community members being less safe than they otherwise would be if profiling wasn't an issue.

**HB 2002 will prompt changes within our law enforcement agencies to address and reduce profiling.** Agencies will be required to adopt written policies and procedures prohibiting profiling, defined not only in relation to race, but also the additional characteristics listed at the top of this page. Agencies will also be required to receive and investigate profiling complaints.

**HB 2002 will reinvigorate and refund the Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC).** LECC began its work on racial profiling in 2001, providing training in partnership with DPSST to Oregon law enforcement, assisting agencies with stop data collection and analysis needs, monitoring public perceptions of Oregon law enforcement, and researching police and minority community relations. HB 2002 will allow LECC to continue and expand the scope of this important work, including receipt and analysis of profiling complaints.

**HB 2002 will pave the way for additional improvements and legislation.** The Law Enforcement Profiling Work Group will prepare a report on profiling with recommendations on a process to identify patterns and practices of profiling, as well as methods to address and correct such patterns and practices.

---

<sup>1</sup> Such fairness is not merely an aspirational goal, but is also required under the core promises of equal protection under the law and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures enshrined in the Oregon Constitution and the federal Constitution.