



February 2, 2016

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to thank you for your consideration of HB 4003 to extend the Oregon Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law Enforcement. It is important that the work group continue its work to develop legislation for the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session, building on the fight to change the culture of policing in our state, making neighborhoods safer and communities stronger.

Oregon recently took an important step forward by joining more than 40 states to ban profiling. However, making something illegal doesn't mean it no longer happens. Better data and increased transparency is needed to ensure everyone is treated fairly by law enforcement. Oregon needs a system to effectively identify, record, and correct profiling by law enforcement agencies. If we don't have the data we need to identify patterns and practices of profiling, we fall short on necessary accountability.

Last fall, the Attorney General and Work Group members listened to community members share the emotional, psychological, physical and financial trauma they've experienced as a result of profiling happening right here in Oregon. They heard firsthand how this practice doesn't make our neighborhoods safer—it disrupts lives and creates ripple effects that harm families and communities.

People in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color are targeted the most by profiling practices, leading to higher arrest and conviction rates for these communities. Many are already struggling financially and risk harsher penalties and extra fees when they can't afford to pay the fines that result from unfair profiling—putting their jobs on the line and their families at risk.

Law enforcement is at its best when officers work together with communities to ensure public safety and promote the dignity of all people. The recommendations rolled out by the Work Group are another step in the right direction towards changing the culture of policing in our state, making neighborhoods safer and communities stronger. We thank the Attorney General and Work Group members for their commitment to this issue and willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with communities across the state and look forward to their continued conversations to change the culture of policing in our state.

ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot For All is a broad coalition of community and labor organizations from across Oregon that are pushing for real policy solutions that address economic inequality, give a better future for all Oregonians and strengthen Oregon's economy. Our 2016 priorities include: raising the minimum wage; ending profiling; and stopping wage theft.

Fair Shot For All includes AFT Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, Impact NW, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon Action, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Nurses Association, PCUN, PFLAG Portland Black Chapter, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Rural Organizing Project, SEIU, the Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the YWCA.

Our priorities are at the center of the economic debate happening both in Oregon, throughout our local communities and on a national stage. Together, we are mobilizing Oregonians and giving a voice to those who need a fair shot.