



March 6, 2017

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-chairs Olson and Williamson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, we respectfully request your support for HB 2355. The Oregon Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law enforcement has met for the past two years and we are pleased with the conclusions that the stakeholders have reached in HB 2355.

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition is non profit organization committed to eliminating health disparities among low income Latino communities in Oregon. At OLHC, we strive to promote health and wellness in those communities through education, resource sharing and advocacy. We believe that any form of profiling can have severe negative implications on an individual's mental and emotional health. Oregon needs to make sure that no one is subject to such treatment and that it's law enforcement agencies implement better practices for training and accountability.

Every day people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. While the legislature passed a ban on police profiling in 2015, there is still no structure in place to effectively identify, record and correct any profiling practices by Oregon law enforcement agencies.

By passing HB 2355 Oregon will continue to work to change the culture of policing, make neighborhoods safer, and communities stronger. It is crucial that we begin to collect data on all officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops, provide updated and regular training to all levels of law enforcement, and accountability measures and guidance for departments that need to correct patterns and practices of profiling.

HB 2355 also addresses the collateral consequences of a profiling and disparities in convictions by reducing the charges for certain drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. This will help communities break the cycle of incarceration and recidivism.

Oregon needs to take the next step to end profiling. The Oregon Latino Health Coalition supports HB 2355 for its vision to make sure that all Oregonians are treated fairly and not discriminated against.

Thank you,

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