



March 1, 2017

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

We, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), are writing to express our strong support for HB 2355. In this new political climate, our communities are facing heightened levels of hate and discrimination. We are asking our elected representatives to use every tool at their disposal to make our communities safer and ensure that everyone is being treated equally and with respect under the law.

The CCC is an alliance of 19 culturally-specific, community based organizations working to advance racial justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity in services. Because of existing stereotypes and systemic prejudices, people in our communities are often targeted by police officers based on their race, ethnicity or cultural background. This unfair practice perpetuates mistrust of police and makes our communities less safe. HB 2355 is a step toward eliminating profiling by establishing a system to capture data, improve transparency, while also mandating updated training for all levels of law enforcement. The bill also addresses the collateral consequences of profiling by reducing the charges for certain drug possessions from a felony to a misdemeanor.

The Coalition of Communities of Color hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to improve racial equity in Oregon by supporting HB 2355. This legislation is a product of the Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law Enforcement, which has been meeting for two years to find a solution to this pressing issue. Community members, law enforcement, and Attorney General Rosenblum have been at the table and all agree that these tools are necessary to identify and address patterns or practice of profiling in our communities.

Sincerely,

Julia Meier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Meier", is positioned below the typed name.

Executive Director
Coalition of Communities of Color

