



March 6, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Fair Shot for All Coalition, we respectfully request your support for HB 2355. We have been committed to the campaign to end profiling since the creation of the Oregon Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law Enforcement and are pleased with the conclusions that the stakeholders have reached in HB 2355.

Eighty five percent of Oregonians believe that law enforcement should not be allowed to profile. Yet every day, people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity—in the streets, in our schools, at public transit stops, and in our own neighborhoods. 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. Stopping this harmful practice requires data collection, training, oversight, and equally important, systemic accountability measures.

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.

Profiling occurs in every part of the state and impacts many different communities, but we still lack a coordinated law enforcement system to address it. The people regularly targeted by police often feel like prisoners in their own communities and many come from families who have experienced profiling for generations.

Low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and LGBT people are targeted the most. African Americans are five times more likely to be pulled over in a vehicle, even though Caucasians are three times more likely to have contraband than people of color. Profiling leads to disproportionate arrests and conviction rate among communities of color. Also, a national 2014 survey showed that 73 percent of all LGBT people and people living with HIV reported having face-to-face contact with police during the past five years.

Among those more likely to face arrest, many are struggling to make ends meet. They are more likely to face harsher penalties and extra fees because they can't afford original fines. People can lose their driver's license when they fall behind on court payments— putting their jobs on the line and their families at risk. This is a systemic concern proven to cause economic struggles across generations.

Ending profiling will restore freedom and open up economic opportunity. Greater accountability will mean people don't have to live in fear and entire communities aren't cast as suspect simply because of what we look like, where we come from or what religion we adhere to. When people don't feel forced to avoid certain areas, they are open to seek employment in



neighborhoods that once felt unsafe. No one will have to limit job opportunities for fear of being stopped on the way to work.

Oregon needs to take the next step to end profiling by passing HB 2355.

ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot for All is a united movement of more than 30 racial justice organizations, community groups and labor unions fighting together for racial, gender and economic justice. Our priorities tackle critical barriers to safety, health and security and continue our fight to secure a fair shot for every Oregonian. We are standing up for women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families. Together, we are sending a message loud and clear: every Oregonian needs real opportunity and a fair shot at a secure future.

Fair Shot for All includes AFT Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), Oregon National Organization for Women, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Student Association, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Rural Organizing Project, Sankofa Collective Northwest, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Unite Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the YWCA.