



So all families can thrive.

March 6, 2017
House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2355, End Profiling

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Forward Together, I urge 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.

Forward Together is a multi-racial organization that works with community leaders and organizations to transform culture and policy to catalyze social change. Our mission is to ensure that all women, youth and families have the power and resources they need to reach their full potential.

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. Forward Together supports HB 2355. Equity and fairness are Oregon values. By passing HB 2355, we can take a step toward creating the freedom and opportunity for all Oregon families to thrive.

Thank you,
Sami Alloy
Oregon Campaigns Director, Forward Together