



March 6, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Portland Jobs with Justice, I 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 is pleased with the conclusions that the stakeholders have reached in HB 2355.

Portland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of over 120 labor, faith, community, and student organizations taking action for workers rights and economic justice through a racial and gender justice lens. Ensuring that immigrants, people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ, and other marginalized people are able to safely move about in public, to and from work, without fear of being detained and questioned just because of their identity clearly falls within the scope of our mission.

People are targeted everyday based on their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. Oregon passed a ban on police profiling in 2015, but 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 we will continue the important work of changing the culture of policing in Oregon, making neighborhoods safer and communities stronger. We must begin collecting 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.

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

Oregon needs to take the next step to end profiling and ensure equity in our justice system. That is why Portland Jobs with Justice supports HB 2355.

Thank you.

Warmly,

D Pei Wu
Executive Director, Portland Jobs with Justice