
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

March 6, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is committed to civil rights, social justice, and reproductive rights for all. We stand with reproductive justice partners who have long proclaimed that women must be able to decide not only if and when to have a baby and the conditions of giving birth — but also that they must be able to parent their children in safe environments and healthy communities without fear of violence from individuals or the government.

Every day, thousands of helpful, mutual interactions occur between police and a diverse array of residents throughout Oregon. But still, in 2017 too many Oregonians are targeted by police 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 the harmful practice of profiling.

That is why we are writing to thank you for your consideration of HB 2355. By passing HB 2355, Oregon will support and expect law enforcement agencies and professionals to serve and protect everyone — proactively in sync with Oregon's rich diversity. HB 2355 makes neighborhoods safer and communities stronger. It is crucial that we begin to collect data on all officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops, and to provide updated and regular training to all levels of law enforcement, as well as accountability measures and guidance for departments that need to correct outdated and destructive patterns and practices of profiling. HB 2355 also addresses the collateral consequences of profiling and disparities in convictions by reducing the charges for certain drug possessions, which will help communities break cycles of incarceration and recidivism.

As the women we serve are mothers, sisters, daughters, and life-partners, their community concerns are shared with us at Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon supports efforts like HB 2355 because we are a provider and advocate for the women, men, and young people we serve — and those who work within Planned Parenthood — who are impacted by profiling every day.

Oregon needs to take the next step to end profiling. We hope that you will join us in support of HB 2355.

Sincerely,



Mary Nolan
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon