



March 6, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Rural Organizing Project, 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 we are pleased with the conclusions that the stakeholders have reached in HB 2355.

The Rural Organizing Project (ROP), a statewide organization of locally-based groups that work to create communities accountable to a standard of human dignity, supports HB 2004. The Rural Organizing Project started in 1992 based in grassroots human dignity groups in rural counties throughout Oregon. Since then we have grown to where we now have over 50 groups in 28 counties. We are working towards a vision of economic security, democracy and human dignity for all and believe that HB 2355 is a step in that direction.

Every day people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. This leads to higher arrest and conviction rates among people of color generally--and African Americans specifically. Additionally 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.

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.

The Rural Organizing Project supports HB 2355 so that Oregon can take the next step to end profiling for urban, rural, and small town Oregonians.

Thank you,
Cara Shufelt
Co-Director, Rural Organizing Project