



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: The Oregon Students Association

Date: March 6th, 2017

Chair Barker, members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Students Association, we respectfully urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2355, which would direct Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to develop methods for recording data concerning officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops. This issue is close to our hearts as students because we come in all colors, creeds, and backgrounds, which contributes to our relationships with law enforcement before we get a say in how it will.

We, as students, and as a state are calling for better methods of data collection that aren't based on possibly misleading assumptions made by police during stops. Youth plays a role in being stopped by law enforcement, whether deserving or not, among the other factors that go into profiling someone for a stop, including race, income status, LGBTQ+, and ability. We would feel safer and better about the law enforcement our dollars also fund knowing that data collection wasn't mired by profiling.

More than that, this bill calls for the reduction of charges for drug possession. Many educational aspirations have been tragically cut short by the implementation of felonies upon students, young and old. Students have given up their educational dreams or may have had them stalled because of a record mired with arrests for minor, and some now legal, substances. This bill would go a long way in assuring that our dreams won't be ripped away from us all at once by chance because of how we look, are, or appear to be.

HB 2355 serves to create an annual reporting system for size of department, which is important for taxpayers to be aware of. This information would be released publicly to ensure that all constituents are being served by sufficient and non-wasteful departments.

We believe that Oregon is a caring state that fosters the dreams and aspirations of its people. By voting yes for this bill, you are ensuring that it remains so. Furthermore, your yes vote on this bill shows all of your constituents, particularly students, that you care about our safety and want to hold law enforcement accountable during these trying times.

We hope you will support this important bill and help remind our students and citizens that they are free from discrimination. Thank you for voting yes on HB 2355

Thank you,

The Oregon Students Association