



Date: March 6, 2017

To: Oregon House Committee on Judiciary

From: Emily McLain, Government Relations Oregon Education Association

Re: Support for HB 2355

The Oregon Education Association represents over 44,000 members across the state of Oregon. Our members are educators working in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public schools and community colleges. OEA's membership includes licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, retired educators, and student members. We support HB 2355 because we believe it is critical to continue the work done in 2015 by the legislature to address the issues of profiling based on race, ethnicity, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation and 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. Having a structure from which we can track data and learn from it is critical.

Education professionals see first hand how profiling can impact Oregon students and their success and participation in Oregon schools. Every day people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. Profiling of a student, an educator, or a family member of a student can have impacts on attendance and participation immediately and in an ongoing manner because of the negative experience an individual has had. Profiling can also cause issues of trust with law enforcement, and the development of communities where students and educators feel safe and welcome.

By passing HB 2355 Oregon will continue to work to change the culture of policing, make neighborhoods safer, and communities stronger. We believe this will have a positive impact on Oregon's educational institutions. 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 Oregon Education Association encourages you to support the passage of HB 2355.