

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

Testimony in Support of HB 2355
March 6, 2017, Hearing Room 343, 1:00pm
House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson and Representatives Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Post and Sanchez:

The Oregon Commission for Black Affairs (OCBA), strongly supports HB 2355 which will develop methods for recording data concerning all officer-initiated pedestrian stops.

The OCBA believes that profiling and associated misconceptions by law enforcement about individuals of color and their involvement in criminal activity lead to unnecessary and unwanted interactions with law enforcement and courts.

We support the efforts of law enforcement, the Attorney General, Governor Brown and community leaders to end the practice of profiling and other practices that show significant racial bias. We also believe that is essential to have reliable data to show progress toward improvement and reveal best practice as well as barriers as well as the ability to inform specific claims of bias in enforcement. OCBA applauds the work done by the Law Enforcement Profiling Workgroup to define, review trainings, access database tools, and complaint procedures over the past two years. The collaboration and support of the stakeholders on the Workgroup has made HB 2355 a strong, well-considered bill that combines recorded interaction at traffic and pedestrian stops with data review and analysis by the CJC, with reduction certain crime classifications for drug offences and possession.

The Oregon Commission on Black affairs thanks you for your positive consideration of recording the stop data concerning all officer-initiated pedestrian stops and the steps underway to reduce the disproportionate representation of people of color in Oregon's safety and justice systems.

Sincerely,

Chair of the OCBA, James Morris

OR Commission on Black Affairs

Chair:

James Morris

Vice Chair:

Robin Morris Collin

Commissioners:

Mariotta Gary-Smith

Kayse Jama

Musse Olol

Gwendolyn Trice

Legislative Liaisons:

Sen. Rod Monroe

Rep. Vacant

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator

Nancy Kramer, Executive Asst.

Ty Schwoeffermann, Policy Analyst