



NAACP

PORTLAND, OREGON
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June 26, 2017

Dear Senator Jackie Winters, Representative Duane Stark, and Members of the Public Safety Subcommittee,

On behalf of the NAACP Portland Branch we write today to urge you to support SB 496/SB 505. The public deserves to know that the grand jury process is fair and just to all participants. As the oldest branch west of the Mississippi, we have for 104 years advocated for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination against all people. The Grand Jury System is the hallmark of our justice system, and currently it is secret and not recorded or transcribed. How can we trust that the system is fair without accountability measures? The passage of this legislation will go a long way towards rebuilding faith in our democracy. In Oregon it is the least we can do to ensure a fair and just criminal justice system. We strongly urge a yes vote on SB 496/SB 505.

Thank you for working to uphold the rights of all Oregonians and ensure a democracy with principles of justice and equity.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Hardesty
President of the NAACP Portland Branch 1120B