



uniteoregon

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

From the Desk of
Representative
Jennifer Williamson

Every day people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity - in the streets, in our schools, at public transit stops, and in our own neighborhoods.

In 2015, Oregon banned profiling by law enforcement. Since then, members of the Law Enforcement Profiling Task Force -- including law enforcement and representatives from organizations such as Unite Oregon and ACLU -- heard hundreds of stories of impacted Oregonians at listening sessions around the state. The task force met dozens of times to find solutions to the systemic causes of profiling. **Those common-ground solutions are represented in HB 2355 and we strongly urge you to pass this bill to end profiling by law enforcement.**

House Bill 2355 addresses profiling through:

- Statewide data collection and analysis for traffic stops and pedestrian searches.
- Mandatory anti-profiling training for all levels of law enforcement.
- Decriminalizing addiction by reducing small-scale possession of controlled substances from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Better data and transparency will help everyone be treated fairly by law enforcement.

Oregon needs a statewide system to effectively identify, record, prevent, and correct profiling by law enforcement. HB 2355 will mean that we have the data we need to identify patterns and practices of profiling. Many other states and cities have already put data collection into practice in order to restore trust and public safety.

Mandatory anti-profiling training at all levels of law enforcement will help end this harmful practice and make sure *all* our communities feel safe. Profiling stems from pervasive stereotypes and implicit bias. Low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and LGBT people are targeted the most. African Americans are five times more likely to be pulled over in a vehicle, even though Caucasians are three times more likely to have contraband than people of color. Profiling leads to disproportionate arrests and conviction rates among communities of color. Also, a national 2014 survey showed that 73 percent of all LGBT people and people living with HIV reported having face-to-face contact with police during the past five years.

HB 2355 will help put an end to economic struggles that can span generations. Among those more likely to face arrest, many are struggling to make ends meet. They are more likely to face harsher penalties and extra fees because they can't afford original fines. People can lose their driver's license when they fall behind on court payments— putting their jobs on the line and their families at risk. This is a systemic concern proven to cause economic struggles across generations. In addition, criminalizing people with mental disabilities, and drug addictions is not making our streets safer. This type of policing leads to felony convictions for personal drug use, and it ruins lives. We need to be smarter. That means doing what's most effective — better access to treatment, education and rehabilitation, not harsher punishments.

ADDITIONAL HB 2355 SUPPORTERS

