



Causa



Coalition of
Communities of
Color



Oregon VOICE



From the Desk of
Representative
Carla C. Piluso

TO: 79th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FR: Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working Group

DA: 2017 Regular Session

RE: Vote YEA on HB 2355

HB 2355 is a Priority Bill that will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity. Communities of color have identified HB 2355 as a Priority Bill and recommend a Yes vote to ensure that an infrastructure of accountability is established to effectively identify, record, and correct profiling practices by Oregon law enforcement agencies. Final floor votes for Priority Bills will be included in the 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity.

HB 2355 would require Oregon law enforcement agencies to collect data on officer-initiated stops to better understand and address police profiling. Every day, people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. While Oregon legislators voted to ban police profiling in 2015, there is still no structure in place to effectively identify, record, and correct profiling practices by Oregon law enforcement agencies. HB 2355 will also require regular training and that technical guidance be provided to departments that need to correct patterns and practices of profiling. The bill also calls for the reduction of charges for certain drug possession from felonies to misdemeanors. Reducing charges for the possession of small amounts of drugs and community based supervision will help Oregonians break the cycle of incarceration and recidivism. We hope you will join us in our collective efforts to advance racial equity in Oregon by supporting HB 2355.

Who we are: The 2017 Legislative Report on Racial Equity is a project of a Working Group of nonpartisan, community based organizations working to advance racial equity in Oregon. The Working Group includes the Coalition of Communities of Color, APANO, Basic Rights Oregon, Causa, Unite Oregon, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Western States Center and Oregon Voice. The project also includes an advisory committee of more than twenty organizations based in communities of color, immigrant/refugee communities, and allied organizations.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez, on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color and the Legislative Report on Racial Equity Working Group.

If you would prefer an alternate method of notice, or if you would like to provide feedback on the Legislative Report on Racial Equity, please contact Amanda Manjarrez at Amanda@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org.