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16 March 2021

To: House Committee on Judiciary - Subcommittee on Civil Law

#### RE: Oregon House Bill 2482 (Equitable Transit Access)

Chair Power, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the Committee,

Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. We are an organization of over 2,800 health professionals and public health advocates statewide working collaboratively with community partners to educate and advocate for societal and policy change that protects human health at the local, state, national, and international level. We seek a healthy, just, and peaceful world for present and future generations.

We enthusiastically support the passage of House Bill 2482, Equitable Transit Access, and encourage you to vote yes on this bill.

This bill stops police from acting as fare enforcement, protects communities' right to use a name different from the one on an ID when asked by an officer, and stops police from charging people without proof of fare with the crime of interfering on public transit.

Access to fair and equitable transit is a human right, and a fundamental component of environmental wellbeing as a social determinant of health. We know that communities of color are overrepresented in stops by law enforcement and the fear of this criminalization leads to greater physical and mental health disparities in communities of color. House Bill 2482 will help us move in the right direction of upholding and defending civil rights, leading to an improvement in public health and wellbeing overall.

Nobody should be disrupted from traveling to work, school, or health care appointments for not having enough money to pay a small fare for transit. Ease of mobility helps improve health outcomes and mental wellbeing. We know that communities of color will benefit the most from this policy and we hope that you all will take the opportunity to support this much-needed bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

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