



Subject: Yes on HB 2169

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mary Zinkin and I live in Portland, OR

I support HB 2169 because we need a public safety system that truly keeps all of us safe. HB 2169 addresses institutional racism through greater use of restorative justice practices, reduction of unnecessary deportations and family separation, and increased police accountability. These policies are a direct response to the long overdue national and local uprising for racial justice sparked by the death of George Floyd in 2020.

The proposed reforms would accomplish the following:

- **Promote restorative justice:** Encourage greater use of restorative justice practices with funding provided to the Criminal Justice Commission
- **Prevent unnecessary deportations:** Make diversion possible for immigrants accused of crime, so they can perform community service, pay restitution and/or receive treatment in their community, rather than automatic deportation and traumatic family separation.
- **Expand police oversight:** Authorize the creation of a police oversight agency or board by city and county governments
- **Improve transparency:** Improve public access to personnel files for police officers who have been investigated for misconduct
- **Require police identification:** Require law enforcement officers to inform a stopped person of reason for the stop and that they have the right to refuse a request to search
- **Ensure informed police searches:** Require law enforcement officers to provide name and badge number if the stop doesn't result in an arrest or citation.

I was almost killed by a stranger with a sawed-off shotgun at a convenience market, prior to PTSD being a diagnosis and prior to victim compensation. I have spent my life healing and recovering so that I can be of service to survivors of crime now. So, I write

from lived experience AND from now being a victim advocate, trauma counselor, and serious and violent crime dialogue facilitator.

I am in support of this bill because the current criminal justice system revolves around the offender and doesn't even come close to responding well to the needs of victims and survivors. I know that incarceration does not keep us safe, and I know that victims and survivors want more options for accountability and healing. I and other victims never want the person who harmed us to harm another person...so resources for treatment, community service and direct accountability through restorative processes are far more desirable. As a victim I know the only person who can answer my questions, take accountability by hearing what the impact of the harm has been on me, and fulfill my need for hearing remorse is the person who did the harm. Without restorative processes there is no way I can get these needs satisfied.

Racial inequality in our public safety system has been hollowing out entire communities and creating generational trauma for too long. The disruptions caused by COVID-19 and community-led calls for racial justice have magnified the urgency for action. HB 2169 is an opportunity to make all of us safer by centering those who are most harmed by our criminal justice system.

Thank you.

Dr. Mary Zinkin  
Executive Director