

Isabela Villarreal
333 SE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
RE: Support HB 2169



March 18th, 2021

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

We are Next Up Action Fund, formerly known as the Bus Project, our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We strongly support HB 2169 to improve public safety in Oregon and reform our criminal legal system by adopting the recommendations of the Racial Justice Council. As members of the Fair Shot For All Coalition we support this bill as part of our ongoing work towards achieving racial justice in Oregon.

Public safety should make the public feel safe. However, Oregon's criminal justice system continues to disproportionately detain, criminalize, and harm communities of color. Oregon must approach public safety and police accountability with a racial justice lens that provides transparency and accountability and restores Oregonians who are impacted by the criminal justice system.

HB 2169 includes recommendations from the Criminal Justice Reform and Police Accountability Committee of the Governor's Racial Justice Council. In response to the long-overdue national and local uprising for racial justice sparked by the death of George Floyd in 2020, the Council is moving Oregon forward by centering Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and immigrant voices in the development of public safety policy solutions.

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.

Widespread racial disparities exist throughout Oregon's criminal justice system. Incarceration also greatly exacerbates the harms of racial targeting by police. Black people represent 2.2 percent of Oregon's population but 9.3 percent of the state's prison population.

The policies developed by the Criminal Justice Reform and Police Accountability Committee will make all of us safer by centering on those who are most disproportionately harmed by our criminal justice system. Together, we can make Oregon a place where we all have a fair shot and feel safe. We urge your YES vote on HB 2169.

Thank you,

Isabela Villarreal
Policy and Communications Manager