

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Decker and I live in Beaverton and work in Hillsboro. I represent Washington County Justice Initiative, which is committed to ending racial, economic, and systemic violence in the Washington County criminal legal system. I write to ask you to support HB 2002.

Our communities are calling for urgent action to transform our public safety system and address the structural racism that is at the root of our criminal legal system. Our system can achieve better outcomes by focusing on healing and opportunity rather than punishment and prison. We can achieve true community safety and justice by shrinking our corrections system and investing in policies and programs that equitably strengthen our communities, including culturally specific programs, housing, crime survivor services, and addiction treatment.

To address the devastating impacts Oregon's criminal justice system has had on communities of color and create a more equitable system that provides true public safety, HB 2002 will

End the use of arrest and incarceration as the default response to unmet healthcare and other basic needs by limiting an officer's authority to make a warrantless arrest, and reducing pretextual stops by limiting the types of infractions for which an officer can initiate a traffic stop.

Limit racial bias-based arrests by requiring 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.

These reforms are needed in Washington County in particular, where several of our law enforcement agencies have been found over the past two years to have racial disparities in their citations and arrests during traffic stops, according to the state's STOP report.

HB 2002 ensures that people who have caused harm are held responsible while allowing those who caused harm to rebuild their lives. The bill also ensures that crime survivors have the resources they need to heal and invests in culturally-specific services throughout Oregon.

We call on leaders in the legislature to support HB 2002 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with Oregonians' vision for a public safety system rooted in equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.