

Date: April 28, 2021
To: House Committee on Rules
From: Madeline Gribbon
Re: Support for Transforming Justice 2021, HB 2002

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Madeline Gribbon and I am a social worker who has work in criminal justice settings in different areas of the country for many years. As a social worker, I am committed to the philosophy that recognizing an individual's and community's humanity should be at the forefront of any policy work in order for our practices to be effective. This legislation is important to me because it is an action step in changing our criminal justice system to prioritize the health of survivors and responsible parties alike; in essence, bringing acknowledgment of humanity into our current processes.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement have exposed systemic injustices in starker light. The system, built atop our long history of white supremacy, continues to disproportionately harm people of color, impacts of which create generational trauma and poverty. With the criminal justice system's extreme focus on punishment, victims and survivors of crime — particularly survivors of color — do not receive adequate support and are sometimes further harmed by the public safety system.

Community leaders from the Governor's Racial Justice Council, Transforming Justice Coalition, Fair Shot for All Coalition, and Legislative leaders from the BIPOC Caucus have joined forces and are working together to create true public safety for our communities. Guided by experts and advocates in the field, we developed proposals that equitably strengthen our communities, including culturally specific programs, housing resources, crime survivor services, and addiction treatment.

HB 2002, with the -4 amendments, will build on our past success with Justice Reinvestment and bring us closer toward a public safety system built on accountability, healing, and opportunity. HB 2002 will:

- Promote restorative justice by encouraging greater use of restorative justice practices with funding provided to the Criminal Justice Commission.
- Rebuild lives after incarceration for people on parole or probation by incentivizing success, limiting revocations, and limiting the number and complexity of conditions imposed on supervision.

Both of these amendments are rooted in accountability and community safety, unlike our current practices which focus on punitive approaches that do not enhance the lives of survivors, families of victims, or responsible parties.

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.

Thank you for your time.

In solidarity,

Madeline Gribbon, CSWA
Portland, OR