



April 29, 2021

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

We at Basic Rights Oregon are writing in support of House Bill 2002. Our mission is to advocate for equality for the LGBTQ community with an emphasis on racial and transgender justice in Oregon. We are also a part of the Fair Shot Coalition that collectively developed the concepts in HB 2002. We believe Oregon should have a fairer and more effective justice system that ensures equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity and urge your yes vote on HB 2002.

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 which then creates generational trauma and poverty. With the criminal justice system's extreme focus on punishment, victims and survivors of crime — particularly survivors of color and LGBTQ people— do not receive adequate support and are often further harmed by the current justice 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.

The bill will make important reinvestments in culturally specific, community-based services by dedicating 20% of Justice Reinvestment funds to culturally-specific organizations and culturally-responsive service providers.

Additionally, it will advance equity by requiring race and gender data collection to ensure that funds are reaching impacted communities. For LGBTQ community members who have been victims of crimes, having affirming support in the aftermath of trauma is so important.

HB 2002 ensures that people who have caused harm are held responsible while also providing opportunities 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 and consideration.