



April 30, 2021

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

The Fair Shot For All Coalition is writing in support of HB 2002 as part of our ongoing commitment to achieving concrete policy changes for community safety and racial justice. Fair Shot and the Racial Justice Council have joined forces with the Transforming Justice coalition to advance our shared vision of true community safety in Oregon.

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 justice system. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement have exposed systemic injustices in starker light, and it is time to work toward a vision of public safety that is built on accountability, healing, and opportunity.

This month's ruling is a reminder that one year ago, our criminal justice system enabled a police officer to murder George Floyd, a Black man, in broad daylight in plain sight in front of his community. Since his death, too many Black people and other people of color have lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. While the police officer who was responsible for his murder was convicted, it does not fix the broken public safety system which is rooted in structural racism. Widespread racial disparities exist throughout Oregon's criminal justice system.

- Black people represent 2.2 percent of Oregon's population but 9.3 percent of the state's prison population.
- Additionally, both ethnic and racial disparities were identified in traffic and pedestrian stop data submitted by the Oregon State Police, according to 2019 reporting from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- A 2016 study from the CJC also found that, despite comparable rates in drug use, Black people in Oregon were convicted of felony drug possession at more than double the rate of white people.
- Black Americans are five times more likely to be pulled over in a vehicle, even though white Americans are three times more likely to have contraband than people of color. Profiling leads to disproportionate arrests and conviction rate among communities of color.
- Incarceration greatly exacerbates the harms of racial targeting by police. Each time we lock someone up, we also sentence their family members to traumatic separation and financial hardship. Two in three families had difficulty meeting basic needs as a result of

their loved one's incarceration. 70 percent of these families were caring for children under 18.

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:

- Limit stops and arrests for low-level offenses to reduce unnecessary contact with law enforcement like the ones that led to the deaths of Sandra Bland and Daunte Wright
- Shrink probation and parole by abolishing supervision fees and incentivizing people to earn time off their supervision
- Invest in communities, culturally specific services, victim services, and restorative justice
- Advance equity by requiring race and gender data collection to ensure that funds are reaching impacted communities

HB 2002 was developed by people and communities that are most harmed and least helped by the criminal justice system. **We urge your support of HB 2002 to transform our approach to public safety and investing in communities.**

About Fair Shot -

Our coalition is governed by a steering committee that includes: Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO), Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), Causa Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association (OEA), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, Unite Oregon, and Urban League of Portland. For a full list of our coalition members and priorities visit www.fairshotoregon.org.