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Good evening Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazen and Holvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Shani Harris-Bagwell, I use They/She/Queen pronouns. I was previously with Imagine Black but am now a consultant with Bagwell Consulting, a firm that helps organizations to decenter whiteness in their policies and practices and I have worked with the coalition creating HB2002 since its inception in August of 2020.

Around that same time, Reimagine Oregon was created by a group of Black-led organizations, Black individual activists and protest organizers, some of which are a part of this coalition, who came together to demand change in how policy was made for Black Oregonians. They demanded that all jurisdictions contribute to establishing an ongoing Black community-led workgroup that will develop community safety alternatives and legislators agreed. This request is a critical piece of HB 2002 in which we are asking for \$1.4M to provide organizations with what they need to resource the research and studies that will advance policy for Black people in Oregon. We have asked jurisdictions and the State for \$2.5M, but \$1.4M is all that is needed after fundraising and asks.



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HB2002 is our chance to correct a few of the systemic inequities that prevent Black Oregonians and other Oregonians of color, from being heard and included in decision making spaces.

What we are aiming to do with this bill is limit the contact people have with police and limit the reasons police can physically connect with civilians. This bill would mean that police can't stop you for a broken headlight, taillight, brake light or expired registration. It would mean that police would have to send you a ticket and that they would no longer have those excuses to stop women like Sandra Bland or men like Philando Castille.

This bill also means that Prostitution and Criminal Trespass will no longer be arrestable offenses. This will be a huge step forward in tackling racial profiling and racial disparities in arrests and would mean that Black professors like Harvards Henry Louis Gates Jr. will never again be arrested for entering their own homes.



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With the anniversary of George Floyd's murder fast approaching, we urge your support for HB 2002 and this is why: if we look at the current justice system like a giant skyscraper sized jenga tower made of heavy steel beams, it's hard to topple. Structural racism holds it firmly in place, but HB 2002 is our opportunity to take out some of those pieces. And that paves the way for us to take another piece, and then another until we can weaken the foundation and reuse those pieces to build a structure, a community that supports us all.

Thank you,

**Shani Harris-Bagwell
Bagwell Consulting**