



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Submitted to the House Committee on Rules
April 30, 2021**

**Testimony in Support of HB 2002
By Shannon Wight, Deputy Director, Partnership for Safety & Justice**

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

At Partnership for Safety & Justice, we advocate for public safety and criminal justice policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 20 years, our work has promoted public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

After George Floyd's murder and the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020, we at PSJ realized we needed to do our work differently and center people closest to the impact of overpolicing and overincarceration in policy development. Together with Latino Network, we convened the Transforming Justice Coalition, which created the policies in HB 2002.

Since HB 2002 was originally filed we've listened to concerns of victim advocates, community corrections and law enforcement in workgroups and various individual meetings. After hearing those concerns we've made several changes, most notably removing Measure 11 reforms from the bill. We also know that many people are just seeing the amendment now, and while we were able to share a working draft yesterday, many stakeholders are still reading the language and providing feedback.

In testimony today you will hear from many people who participated in the creation of HB 2002. You will also hear from people who currently work in the criminal justice system who have concerns about the bill and believe our system isn't broken.

Many of us agree - the system is not actually broken, but is working exactly the way it was designed to: as a carryover from this country and Oregon's racist history, including being the only state in the country that was founded as a white-only state.

Part of the coalition's work on this bill is helping system stakeholders better understand the sources and impacts of our racist system. The reforms in HB 2002 start that work by driving solutions to deconstruct racism within our public safety system and move Oregon away from the values that founded this state as a white-only place and toward an Oregon that celebrates equity and diversity.

We urge your support of HB 2002.