

Isabela Villarreal
333 SE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
RE: Support for Transforming Justice 2021, HB 2002



May 1, 2021

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

We are Next Up Action Fund, formerly known as the Bus Project, our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We are part of the Fair Shot Coalition that collectively developed the concepts in HB 2002e. 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, 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 coalition 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:

- Limit racial bias-based arrests by requiring law enforcement officers to inform a stopped person of reason for the stop and that they have the right to refuse a request to search
- 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.

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,

Isabela Villarreal
Policy and Communications Manager