



February 2, 2021

To: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
From: Zach Winston, Policy Director

Re: **In Opposition to SB 214**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

The goal of the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC) is to promote civil rights and improve legal representation for communities that have often been underserved in the past: people living in poverty and people of color among them. We work in collaboration with like-minded organizations to maximize our reach to serve underrepresented populations, to train future public interest lawyers, and to educate our community on issues related to civil rights and civil liberties.

The OJRC has significant concerns regarding the disparate impact SB 214 would have on communities of color. It is well established that Oregon's communities of color are overrepresented at all stages of the criminal justice system. Therefore, legislation that places additional burdens on system-involved individuals demands careful analysis on how the proposed legislation will impact communities of color.

The proposed changes in SB 214 have the potential to lengthen involvement in the criminal justice system, thereby leading to more probation violations, increased costs associated with the criminal justice system, and prolonged collateral consequences that, in many cases, serve as barriers to successful reentry and prosocial behavior. These concerns are even more significant when they impact populations that are already systemically disadvantaged.

Additionally, we have concerns about the impact SB 214 will have on system-involved women. Our Women's Justice Project provides limited representation to incarcerated women on civil matters. Numerous incarcerated clients have children who were victims in the crime(s) of conviction. The expanded definition of victim could potentially lead to restitution requests for the care their children received during the pendency of the case. This would result in an extraordinary increase in restitution amounts and severely inhibit successful reentry.

The OJRC urges the Committee to seek additional information and research relating to the impact SB 214 may have on women and communities of color.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Zach Winston' in a cursive script.

Zach Winston  
Policy Director