



## Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 1, 2022

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

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1510 to bring transformative changes to our criminal justice system.** My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 85,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

In the same way that labor unions were created to protect workers, the criminal justice system was created, not only to keep the public safe, but to also make them feel safe. However, Oregon's criminal justice system continues to disproportionately detain, criminalize, and harm communities of color, specifically black communities. Oregon must approach public safety and police accountability with a racial justice lens that provides transparency and accountability, and restores Oregonians who are impacted by the criminal justice system.

Transforming Justice 2022 (**SB 1510**) will reduce racial disparities in traffic stops by minimizing unnecessary interactions between law enforcement and Oregonians of color. It will improve success for people on probation and parole by eliminating unnecessary barriers such as excessively long and burdensome parole/probation sentences and workplace visits. And it will fund services that promote racial equity, address racial disparities prevalent in Oregon's criminal justice system, and reduce prison use.

SEIU is committed to being an anti-racist organization. We believe in and fight for our vision for a just society: where all workers are valued and all people respected, no matter where we are from, the color of our skin, or the language we speak; where all families and communities can thrive; and where we leave a more just and equitable world for generations to come.

Our international union passed a resolution proclaiming that in order to win economic justice, we must win racial justice. Because we know that until Black communities and other communities of color can thrive, none of our communities can truly thrive. It's no secret that workers of color are the backbone of every pro-labor movement.

By changing how traffic stops are made, we can limit unnecessary traffic stops and make our communities safer. By eliminating unnecessary barriers for people on parole and probation, we can build on people's strengths and promote stable homes, families, and economies. And by changing how public safety dollars are invested, communities across Oregon will have better access to the resources they need to begin to feel safe, heal, and rebuild their lives.

**Please support SB 1510 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with Oregonians' vision for a public safety system rooted in racial equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.**

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos  
Political and Government Relations Organizer  
SEIU, Oregon State Council