



TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Nancy Haque, Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon
DATE: 2/2/2022
RE: Support for SB 1510

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Basic Rights Oregon is urging you to advance Transforming Justice 2022, or Senate Bill 1510. Our organization is dedicated to improving the lived experiences of all LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians, and by definition our work centers queer and trans Black and brown people, who are disproportionately impacted by the state's criminal justice system.

We support SB 1510 because for too long, too many Black and brown Oregonians have been targeted by law enforcement, trapped in a criminal justice system that values punishment over rehabilitation, and denied resources that offer alternatives to imprisonment. Transforming Justice's policies would help change this reality.

According to [recent data](#) collected by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Oregon State Police officers disproportionately issue citations to Black, Latinx, Native American, Middle Eastern, and Asian/Pacific Islander drivers during routine traffic stops. Transforming Justice would help curb this disparity by making a broken headlight, taillight, brake light, or license plate light a "secondary offense," meaning an officer cannot pull over a driver for these reasons alone. This change will make Black and brown drivers safer, as traffic stops can too often lead to excessive force.

We believe that the aim of our criminal justice system should not be merely to punish—it should be to hold people accountable, and give them the tools they need to live safer and more successful lives. SB 1510 will advance these goals by eliminating needlessly prohibitive parole policies for people reentering society.

The bill will also create the Reinvestment Equity Program, a fund designed to provide underserved communities with mental health and social service resources with the aim of reducing prison use, particularly for Black and brown Oregonians. When fewer Oregonians are incarcerated and our communities are made safer, we all benefit.

If we want to create a safer and more equitable Oregon, we can't continue with the same policies that created and perpetuate a system that unfairly targets people of color, and over-imprisons people while failing to uphold the physical and mental well-being of our communities. To that end, we hope you will vote to advance SB 1510.

Thank you.