



February 3, 2022

**Re: Support for SB 1510**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1510. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations engaged in collective action for racial justice.

A fair and equitable state means that we all deserve to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect in our communities. Yet far too many Black, Indigenous, and Latinx Oregonians are harmed through our legal system, unnecessary contact with law enforcement, and a lack of effective services. SB 1510 will mitigate these issues through three key reforms to reduce disparities in traffic stops, improve outcomes for people on probation and parole, and reinvest in culturally specific services for healing and treatment.

**Reducing racial disparities in traffic stops:** Reducing the number of traffic stops—and the racial disparities in who is stopped—will bring down the number of unnecessary interactions with law enforcement. Traffic stops can quickly escalate, putting people in dangerous situations for minor violations that don't actually impact safety. By making a broken light a secondary offense, we can reduce interactions with law enforcement that can result in violence and excessive force, particularly against Black and brown Oregonians.

**Success for people on probation and parole:** After a person has been held accountable for harm, they should have the ability to succeed, including stable employment. Unnecessary and disruptive probation and parole visits at a person's work can prevent them from rebuilding their lives. Instead, the system should support individuals as they work to earn a living, and support their families.

**Investing in culturally-specific services:** The Justice Reinvestment Equity Program will increase access to culturally specific services for healing, treatment, and safety. Culturally specific services are the most effective approach to meeting the needs of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color. Dedicated investments will reduce rates of incarceration and recidivism, increase safety for the entire community, and provide survivors of crime with the resources they need to heal.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I ask that you support SB 1510 to advance racial equity in our state and help Black and brown Oregonians feel safe in communities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Lee", is written over the typed name.

Jenny Lee  
Deputy Director

Coalition of Communities of Color