



**PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee  
February 3, 2022**

**Testimony in Support of SB 1510  
By Shannon Wight, Deputy Director, Partnership for Safety & Justice**

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

At Partnership for Safety & Justice, we advocate for public safety and criminal justice policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 20 years, our work has promoted public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

PSJ is part of the Transforming Justice Coalition which originally brought HB 2002 in the 2021 session. The bill has been significantly amended since that time and while many reforms will need to be discussed in future sessions, PSJ and the coalition are strongly supportive of SB 1510 as a critical piece of anti-racist legislation to address disparities in our criminal legal system.

It limits unnecessary contact between law enforcement and community members, ensures people on probation and parole are set up for success, and directs funds to culturally-specific and responsive organizations and programs across the state

SB 1510 is a big bill, not dissimilar in structure to the original Justice Reinvestment bill passed in 2013.

PSJ was one of the chief proponents of the Justice Reinvestment program's creation and over the last almost decade, the program has been extremely successful. It has prevented the opening of new prisons and has helped rein in public safety costs. When creating Justice Reinvestment in 2013, however, we neglected to ensure that funds get to historically underserved communities throughout the state.

In 2020, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission released a report required by HB 3064 (2019). This bill required CJC to look more closely at the racial equity components of JRI. That report found:

*“Culturally specific providers are the preferred delivery model for servicing historically underserved communities. Currently, however, the use of culturally specific providers within JRI is rare. Culturally-specific providers traditionally have been excluded from consideration for JRI treatment subcontracts and victim services allocations—a reflection of institutional and systemic barriers. For the 2019-2021 biennium, none of the contracted community providers offered culturally specific services. Similarly, of the victim service providers represented, many provided culturally specific women and children’s services, but other historically underserved communities were not represented.” (p. 28)”*

<https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/HB3064ReportSept2020.pdf>,

PSJ believes that all Oregonians deserve access to healing, treatment, and safety. When we invest public safety dollars into our communities, we reduce prison use and recidivism and increase safety.

To accomplish these goals for all Oregonians, SB 1510 makes some needed adjustments to the JRI program by:

- Creating a third program of Justice Reinvestment, called the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (the second one is known as the Supplemental Grant, passed in 2017 in HB 3078)
- Designating the Northwest Health Foundation to administer the Equity Program. They will receive the funds from CJC and will distribute grants to culturally-specific organizations and culturally-responsive service providers across the state
- Allocating a \$10 million Special Purpose Appropriation (SPA) passed as part of HB 5006 last session is intended to be released to cover the initial investments of this new program

One of the goals of the Justice Reinvestment program is to reduce the number of people going to prison by investing in local resources. These investments must reach historically underserved people or the program will fail to impact the communities who have been most disproportionately impacted by mass incarceration.

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.

We urge you to support SB 1510.