



Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Leland Baxter-Neal and I am the Director of Advocacy for Latino Network.

Latino Network is a culturally-specific nonprofit serving Latinx youth and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Our organization provides transformative services to more than 10,000 Latinx youth, families, and community members in multiple areas including education, family stability, housing support, and advocacy.

In 2020, amid the racial justice reckoning brought by the murder of George Floyd, Latino Network and Partnership for Safety and Justice co-convened the Transforming Justice Coalition. Our intention in doing so was to create a space and process that supports individuals representing the communities most disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system in engaging in the policy-making process. This coalition, made up of impacted individuals, service providers, and policy advocates, met weekly for months. The product of this work was HB 2002.

After many more weeks of discussions and negotiations during the 2021 legislative session, it was determined that HB 2002 needed more work and more conversation before its passage. We are grateful that Senator Prozanski convened a legislative workgroup over the interim to hammer out the details of this policy with all stakeholders at the table. Members of the Transforming Justice Coalition participated in these discussions alongside the law enforcement community, state agencies, and multiple legislators. The product of these substantive and productive conversations resulted in SB 1510.

The three specific sections of the bill (limiting interactions between communities across the state and law enforcement, ensuring success for people on supervision, and investing in culturally-specific and culturally-responsive programs) are critical to the vitality of Oregon's Latino/Latina/Latine population.

Latino/Latina/Latine Oregonians are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, facing racial profiling and disproportionately high rates of police stops. We know from multiple years of reported data that police stops of Black and Brown Oregonians more frequently result in requests for "consent" searches than stops of White Oregonians. For a variety of reasons, community members rarely feel empowered—or even know they have the right—to decline these intrusive and sometimes humiliating searches. Yet, that same data shows that consent



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searches of Black and Brown Oregonians are *less* likely to result in the discovery of anything unlawful.

The simple, common sense, and broadly supported reforms in SB 1510 will help ensure that all Oregonians, regardless of where they are from or what they look like, are treated with dignity and respect.

Latino Network is pleased to support the workgroup product, SB 1510, and strongly urges all legislators to do the same.

Sincerely,

Leland Baxter-Neal  
Director of Advocacy - Latino Network