

Submitter: Micheal N

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110  
Implementation

Measure: SB1510

February 3, 2022

Re: Testimony in support of SB1510

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

I am writing today to show my support for SB 1510. After being arrested, I was given virtually no assistance regarding my case. I believe it is because I come from a very different place culturally than that of my pretrial caseworker.

I felt that my pretrial caseworker held beliefs about me before I had gotten the opportunity to even engage with her. I had a sincere desire to meaningfully engage and couldn't do that because of her bias and inability to be culturally competent. She failed to provide me with a safe environment. I felt that as the Black man in a multicultural relationship, I was automatically seen as the problem. I was not treated as someone who had gone through intimate partner abuse, and I was not treated with dignity or respect.

It was confusing to have to communicate with such an aggressive person. The ways in which I was constantly misunderstood caused me to break down in tears on several occasions. I then missed the first meeting with the monitoring group, and this could have had serious consequences for me. I advocated for myself, and I reported this behavior to her supervisor. I was not helped or communicated with afterwards, and in fact I was told I was a less important case and had to wait.

So, in essence, because I was treated in a way that wasn't ok, I then received a lack of services. I believe that the parole and probations portion of this bill is paramount to the success of those within the criminal justice system. Those working with us should be trained in culturally specific services and trauma informed care. It is imperative that the system begin to understand the intersectionality between those in the criminal justice system and those seen as "victims". Thank you for your time and I hope that this bill is passed. It's time to move Oregon forward.

Sincerely,  
Bear N.