

Submitter: NORA POLK

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1510

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

My name is Nora Polk.

Every Oregonian deserves to feel safe and be treated with dignity. But many of us, especially Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color, feel vulnerable and unprotected in our own communities, homes, and workplaces.

Transforming Justice 2022 (SB 1510) will reduce racial disparities in traffic stops by making a broken headlight, taillight, brake light, or license plate light a “secondary offense,” meaning that an officer can issue a citation only if a driver is pulled over for something else.

Transforming Justice 2022 (SB 1510) will improve success for people on probation and parole with a rulemaking process that can prevent, in some instances, parole and probation officers from visiting the people they supervise at work. The rules will also cover when certain people on supervision can report remotely.

Transforming Justice 2022 (SB 1510) will create the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program to fund services that promote racial equity, address racial disparities prevalent in Oregon’s criminal justice system, and reduce prison use.

SB 1510 ensures that people who have caused harm are responsible for that harm, after which they would have an opportunity to rebuild their lives. It also ensures that crime survivors have the resources they need to heal and invests in culturally specific services for communities of color throughout Oregon.

Please support SB 1510 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with Oregonians’ vision for a public safety system rooted in racial equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nora Polk