

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

My name is Brian Montes and I am a sophomore studying Political Science at Portland State University. I also serve in PSU's student government as Legislative Affairs Director.

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 communities, homes, and workplaces.

As a student, this legislation is important to me because I represent the very type of person who stands to lose should this legislation does not get passed. I have grown up knowing all too well the sinking feeling of having to disarm aggression from members of law enforcement toward my dad for being pulled over for a broken taillight. I am proud of my Hispanic heritage, first-generation student and American. I know first hand the systematic oppressions that many BIPOC and immigrants have to go through, and establishing the provisions under SB1510 would make it so that the children in today's America who are going through the same things I went through don't have to worry about their parents being arrested for something as simple as a traffic stop. The nature of this bill is inherently and vehemently personal, and its consequences are far too important to ignore. We also cannot ignore the growing impacts that institutional racism has on law enforcement and the subsequent demise of public trust in our policing agencies. With that in mind, it is safe to say that SB 1510 will serve as a tool to alleviate the lack of trust and be a much needed starting block to address the ills of racism and oppression in our criminal justice system.

Transforming Justice 2022 (SB 1510) will ensure that things like routine traffic stops do not result in the needless and disproportionate incarceration of BIPOC individuals from Astoria to Ontario, Joseph to Ashland. This bill also ensures that programs that aim to end the disproportionate resource divide within the criminal justice system. This is highly consequential as Portland State is currently looking at ways to increase our support to people who are currently and formerly incarcerated and aim to obtain a higher education. This is done through our "Prison Behind Bars" Program, led by Professor Deborah Arthur, and has seen incredible success so far and will benefit from the passage of the proposed bill. SB 1510 is instrumental in ensuring that we lift up the very people our institutions leave behind and doing so in a manner that empowers the people who can lift others up.

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,



Brian Montes  
Legislative Affairs Director  
Associated Students of Portland State University

