



February 03, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Bridget Cooke, Executive Director – Adelante Mujeres
RE: Support for Transforming Justice 2022, SB 1510

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

My name is Bridget Cooke, and I am the Executive Director of Adelante Mujeres, which means “Women Rise Up.” I am writing today in support of the legislative bill, Transforming Justice, SB 1510, because every Oregonian should deserve to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect.

As a non-profit organization in Washington County, Adelante Mujeres’ mission is to provide holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latina women and their families to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. Our organization served over 13,000 individuals in 2021 with comprehensive and life-changing services — these services span from Educational, Microenterprise, and Leadership programs. Adelante strongly supports SB 1510 because a substantial number of program participants identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color, and feel vulnerable and unprotected in their own communities, homes, and workplaces.

This legislation is important to us because we see and hear firsthand the fear in the community, and especially those who identify as black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color. Many already live in fear because of their status in the United States, or because of previous traumas they, or those whom they know, have experienced firsthand.

Passing Transforming Justice 2022 (SB 1510) will reduce racial disparities in traffic stops by making a broken light - headlight, taillight, brake light, or license plate light - a “secondary offense,” meaning that an officer can only issue a citation if a driver is pulled over for a different reason. Every Oregonian deserves to feel safe. Unnecessary interactions between law enforcement and Black and brown Oregonians increase the risk of excessive force and violence in our communities. By changing when traffic stops can be made, we limit unnecessary interactions and keep our communities safer. It also ensures that crime survivors have the resources they need to heal, and it invests in culturally specific services for communities of color in Oregon.

Please support SB 1510 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with not only Adelante Mujeres values, but Oregonians’ vision for a public safety system rooted in racial equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bridget Cooke'.

Bridget Cooke, Executive Director