



Changing lives
Building communities
Creating opportunities

**Testimony in Support of SB 560
Senate Judiciary Committee**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Close and members of the Committee,
My name is Ed Blackburn and I am the Executive Director of Central City Concern. I am writing this letter in support of SB 560. Founded in 1979 as a 501(c)(3), Central City Concern has developed a comprehensive continuum of affordable housing options, treatment services including primary care, behavioral and complementary healthcare, drug and alcohol treatment and recovery support, and employment serving an estimated 13,000 low income and homeless individuals and families annually.

Many of our constituents may be subject to discrimination related to their race, ethnicity, or their appearance which may be associated with their poverty, disability, lack of housing, access to storage and facilities necessary for maintaining hygiene. Exposure to profiling potentially impedes our ability to develop the trust and rapport needed to engage individuals into our continuum of treatment, healthcare, housing and self-sufficiency programming.

SB 560, the End Profiling Act would provide guidance to law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies and procedures against profiling and require they provide regular training to officers to help them adhere to the profiling ban. Furthermore, complaints of profiling will be investigated and result in appropriate disciplinary action against officers found to be engaged in this harmful activity. Finally, this bill will require enforcement agencies to submit copies of complaints to the Attorney General who can monitor and investigate departments in violation of the ban.

For over 30 years, Central City Concern has been working with some of the most marginalized members of this community and we know first-hand how discrimination negatively impacts the restoration of health, wellness and community engagement. We need to do everything we can to promote a safe community. SB 560 will do a lot to protect the human rights of all people and the constitutional rights to due process, equal treatment and freedom from discrimination.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Blackburn", is written over a horizontal line.

Ed Blackburn
Executive Director