

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Chair Barker and Members of the Committee

I'm Raquel Bournhonesque Co-Director of Upstream Public Health, and I'm here to thank this committee for hosting this informational hearing on racial profiling and support the development of a taskforce to seriously consider this issue further.

From a community health perspective racial profiling has serious consequences for the health and life of communities across Oregon. Racial profiling leads to increased stress for communities of color, breaks down trust in our police force, and leads to disproportionate incarceration for specific racial groups.

More than 100 studies -- most published since 2000 -- now document the effects of racial discrimination on physical health, particularly stress and anxiety related diseases including heart disease, stroke, and depression. More research is needed but there is a growing body of evidence showing these links.

Racial profiling has a snowball effect that rolls counter to our values as Oregonians, counter to all the communitywide programs we all fought hard to put into place, and it is counter to building a stronger more prosperous, united, and healthy Oregon.

Unlike racial profiling, community policing has consistently been shown to work, while racial profiling undermines these efforts. The better the relationship between residents and police, the more likely residents are to

report crimes, come forward as witnesses, cooperate in investigations, and therefore community policing builds safer, healthier communities.

Racial profiling breaks trust, alienates communities of color, and sabotages important communitywide efforts going on to improve the health and vitality of community's. It undoubtedly disproportionately increases incarceration for POC, and which has terrible consequences on family life.

The Department of Justice reports that among those *imprisoned* on drug charges, 26% are white, 45% are black, and 21% are Latino. According to the Public Health Service, approximately 70% of drug users are white, 15% are black, and 8% are Latino.

Our assumptions about people are influenced by a host of things: our personal history and experiences, the media, Hollywood, our families, our education, our neighborhoods and communities, our socio-economic status, and of course, our race. In most cases, the assumptions we bring to our daily interactions with people are innocuous. However, assumptions made by law enforcement officers can have unintended yet disastrous consequences for people of color. This must change. We must have additional safeguards in place to prevent this from happening in our great state. Because the health of every community's across Oregon is at risk.

Thank you