

Chair Prozanski, Chair Barker, and members of the House & Senate Committees,

For the record, I'm Kayse Jama, Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing, an organization working to build a multiracial, multiethnic movement for immigrant & refugee rights. I'm here today to do two things: first, I want to urge your support of the End Profiling Act. Second, because the bill can't move forward this session, I'm here to strongly recommend that you convene an interim working group of stakeholders to tackle the issue of profiling head-on.

The End Profiling Act, Senate Bill 560, is simple. Modeled after a piece of legislation enacted in New Mexico in 2009, it defines and bans profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual disability, serious medical condition, income, language, political affiliation, or religion. It requires law enforcement agencies at the local, county, and state level to train their officers on how to police without profiling. Finally, it streamlines the complaint procedure for victims of profiling, giving our state Attorney General oversight over any and all complaints.

As communities, we need to ensure that our hardworking law enforcement officers feel safe. We know the risks they take in their work, and we believe that they should be able to return every night to their families. Our communities need to feel safe, too. We need to feel that we can trust law enforcement, and that they won't be singled out because of who they are. At the end of the day, this bill is about ending bias-based policing, and making all of us safer, including police.

Profiling is also an ineffective law enforcement practice. If we focus on a suspect's identity rather than specific indicators of criminal behavior, we increase the number of people put through our criminal justice system, but decrease our success rate in catching offenders. At a time when the state's dealing with scarcer resources every year, we just can't afford that inefficiency.

On a more basic level, though, profiling violates our country's long-held notions of fairness, justice, and equality under the law. Senate Bill 560 is an important first step to give our communities the tools to hold law enforcement accountable when profiling happens. It also gives organizations like CIO and our partners the chance to work with law enforcement agencies collaboratively to better train officers on how not to profile.

We must stop profiling in our communities. Please support the End Profiling Act, both this session, and in its future incarnations. I urge you to convene a working group on profiling in the interim. I'm happy to answer any questions which you might have.

SB 560
lineup

SB ~ lineup

✓ Kayse Jama / ✓ Midge Purcell / ✓ Dan Handelman

✓ Demetris Espinoza / ✓ Quintan Blanton / ✓ Marijeh Mehrman

✓ Lisa Summers / ✓ Eric Richardson / ✓ Greg Delgado

✓ Rev. Mark Knutson / ✓ Lisa Haynes / ✓ Courtney Robertstee

Muna Hashi / Urban League volunteer / Patty Kitz

Rachel Bourhennesque / Oregon Advocacy Commission /
Central City Concern