



**CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, I respectfully request your support for HB 2355. The Oregon Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law enforcement has met for the past two years and we are pleased with the conclusions that the stakeholders have reached in HB 2355.

As people of faith in nearly 40 churches throughout the state of Oregon, the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ seeks to live out our belief that each person is created in the image of God and worthy of life, dignity and respect. In the fall of 2015, we committed ourselves to actively work to be anti-racist, in both our institutional structure, and in our engagement in the public sphere. The Central Pacific Conference endorses efforts to end racial profiling within the state of Oregon.

Every day people are targeted based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, language, housing status, sexual orientation or gender identity. While the legislature passed a ban on police profiling in 2015, there is still no structure in place to effectively identify, record and correct any profiling practices by Oregon law enforcement agencies.

By passing HB 2355 Oregon will continue to work to change the culture of policing, make neighborhoods safer, and communities stronger. It is crucial that we begin to collect data on all officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops, provide updated and regular training to all levels of law enforcement, and provide accountability measures and guidance for departments that need to correct patterns and practices of profiling.

HB 2355 also addresses the collateral consequences of a profiling and disparities in convictions by reducing the charges for certain drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. This will help communities break the cycle of incarceration and recidivism.

Oregon needs to take the next step to end profiling. As people of faith, the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ supports HB 2355, and encourages you to do the same.

Thank you,

Rev. Elizabeth Durant
Central Pacific Conference, United Church of Christ
Co-Chair, Justice & Witness Ministry Team