From: David Stevens
To: JWMPS Exhibits; Sen.JackieWinters@state.or.us; Rep Stark
Subject: HB 2355
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 6:49:08 AM

Dear Senator Winters, Rep. Stark, and members of the Joint SubCommittee on Public Safety,

I am writing to urge you to move forward with HB 2355. For the reasons outlined below, by someone much more eloquent than myself, this bill could go a long way toward reducing disparities in the criminal justice system in Oregon. I heard you to do everything in your power to make this bill law and make Oregon a fairer state for all people.

Sincerely,
David Stevens, RN
Portland, Oregon

"HB 2355 will create a statewide stop data collection system for traffic and pedestrian stops, mandatory anti-profiling training for all law enforcement, and accountability mechanisms for police departments that have patterns of profiling.

HB 2355 will also defelonize small-scale drug possession (decreasing the penalty from a felony, which means prison, to a misdemeanor). The racist War on Drugs fuels profilings and amplifies racial disparities in our criminal justice system: for example, in Oregon, Black people are 2.4 times more likely to be charged for drug offenses than white people, even though use is the same. Instead, HB 2355 will treat drug use and addiction as a public health issue rather than a criminal issue by offering people treatment, not prison.

Lastly, HB 2355 will reduce maximum jail time for a Class A misdemeanor (for example, a DUI) from 365 to 364 days. This is important because ICE can deport folks if they are in jail for 365 days, but not 364. Families don’t deserve to be torn apart and people don’t deserve to be deported for misdemeanors."