



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Testimony in Support of HB 4065
By Andy Ko, Executive Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice
Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

Partnership for Safety and Justice is a statewide, nonprofit organization that advocates for public safety and criminal justice policies. For nearly 20 years, our work has advanced state and local solutions that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both.

At Partnership for Safety and Justice, we prioritize policies that shrink our criminal justice system and instead create innovative solutions that promote public safety. ***To that end, we respectfully ask for your support for HB 4065 to end debt-based drivers' license suspensions.***

HB 4065 removes the need for people to have to choose between getting to work, taking family to the doctor or children to school and breaking the law. Additionally, suspending a person's license can make it harder for people to keep their jobs and pay the fines and fees.

These consequences are not shared equally by Oregonians. As this committee heard recently in a presentation on Racial Profiling STOP data, the Criminal Justice Commission reported the greatest racial disparities for driving while suspended, which they found was directly connected to the downstream impact of our fines and fees system.

In the study, African American and Native American Oregonians were cited for driving while suspended in over 13% of contacts, while the statewide average was 6.3%. Racial disparities plague our criminal justice system where Oregon ranks 7th in the country for our rate of incarceration for African Americans. HB 4065 is one step in the right direction to reduce disparities in our systems.

Passage of HB 4065 will reduce potential criminal consequences for driving while suspended when people simply don't have the resources to pay traffic fines and help to reduce disparities in our public safety system.

We urge your support for HB 4065.