

My name is Morgan Godvin. I was part of the coalition that created this bill. Because I am a supervision expert. I have been supervised by Multnomah County, Washington County, and federal probation.

Being on supervision can be summarized into one word: fear. No matter how well I was doing, every meeting with my probation officer sparked fear in my heart and I walked into the office trembling.

Their most famed tool is arrest. That they use that tool against you feels like an eventuality. For countless UAs an officer stared at me as I pulled down my pants and underwear and peed into their cup. I always panicked—what if CBD got into my drink and had trace amounts of THC? What if I had eaten poppy seeds?

Knowing I had not used drugs was not enough, because the law is not in your favor when you're on supervision. Your rights are diminished, you're always a half step away from landing back in jail. A false positive. A missed appointment. It takes so little.

If you think it's a matter of respect to show up to my place of work and out me to my coworkers with your emblazoned uniforms and visible firearms, we are grossly misunderstanding each other. Respect would be treating me as the normal productive member of society that I am.

When a PO comes to my place of work or home and all my neighbors and coworkers see, they understand the message: I am a criminal, I am dangerous.

People in federal Bureau of Prison custody on community confinement are supervised by staff, contracted through the Northwest Regional Reentry Center, in plain clothes without firearms. Those elements of this bill are not reinventing the wheel.

Supervision in its current form means fear. Fear is not a positive emotion that motivates humans to be their best selves. When applied to any other circumstance, we know this to be true.

Now the fear I felt, which must be a fraction of what people of color feel, was not my PO's fault—they were good people doing their best. It's the system.

This bill fundamentally changes the system, moving away from an adversarial system based in fear to a supportive system based in healing.

I support house bill 2002 because I support justice in all its forms.