



DATE: March 8, 2021

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Equitable Policing

FROM: Maria Caballero Rubio

RE: HB 2162

I am in strong support of HB 2162 that directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to study changes to police officer training and to provide results of the study to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2021.

I have been a resident of Oregon since 1969 and have over 24 years' experience in criminal justice and public safety. I currently serve as director of a culturally – specific nonprofit organization that serves low- income Latinos, immigrants, and many who have been historically disenfranchised due to the impacts of policing in the state of Oregon. While I have experienced public safety from the inside and understand the challenges and respect the good work they do to serve the public, I have also seen the need for transforming and updating long-standing systems and structures to meet the needs of a different time and new demographics in our state.

Communities of color expect change after the very public display of force that led to the death of Mr. Floyd last May. We were traumatized as a nation and we will not go back to pre-May 2020 policing. None of us will and none of us should. It is time to consider the community and hold it front and center in police training. It is time to center racial justice in how we train, what we train, who we train, and who delivers the training.

Basic police training must be where future officers learn not only tactics and laws, but where they learn about context and about the people they will serve and their expectations.

I believe that this bill will help to identify needed changes to make policing more equitable.

Thank you for your time.