

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony today. My name is Alejandra Gallegos-Chacón (they/them) and I am a community organizer with the Youth Environmental Justice Alliance. I am here to support HB 2482 as I know it will make public transit safer for people like myself and other marginalized communities. In my experience using public transit almost always comes with racial and gendered harassment in general, but today there is a way you all can intervene in that harm, and it's by passing this bill. This bill will mitigate racial and class profiling by not letting officers act as fare enforcers and it will not make it a crime to not pay fare, which in large also mitigates class disparities in our state. As a person of color and organizer who works with BIPOC youth, I have experienced and witnessed several times police harassment due to fare inspections. It is not that the fare enforcers call the police when doing fare inspections, but that the transit police who hangout around Trimet stations usually come up and begin their conversations with "may we see your proof of fare?" One time, my friends and I were coming from the Moda Center back home to East Portland (where more police presence is) and we were approached about our fares. And when one of my friends showed proof of their youth fare the officer did not believe that they were under 18 and was confused by their trans identity, and thus wrote them a fine for over \$100. Even though they had valid proof of fare, this police officer clearly had nothing better to do that day. And as a trans non-binary person myself, I cannot explain to you how unnerving it is to have to explain and out myself with my dead name to a cop. It is frightening and for some could be deadly. This bill offers a sense of inclusivity that is not merely a buzzword but actually makes my commute safer. This bill does not remove the right for police to intervene in dangerous situations or even remove them from surveilling the area. It just makes riding the bus or MAX a little less hostile over \$2.50. Again I implore you to support HB2482 and to keep in mind people like myself when analyzing these matters. Thank you.