



Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Unite Oregon strongly supports HB 2169 to improve public safety in Oregon and reform our criminal justice system by adopting the recommendations of the Racial Justice Council. As members of the Fair Shot For All Coalition we support this bill as part of our ongoing work towards achieving racial justice in Oregon.

Unite Oregon represents over 13,000 supporters and members across Oregon. Led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, Unite Oregon works across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice.

Communities of color in Oregon have lived through generations of white supremacist violence and systemic racism. Many people of color including immigrants and refugees and especially Black Oregonians, do not feel safe in their own communities or in public spaces because widespread racial disparities exist throughout our criminal justice system.

Unite Oregon led the statewide effort from 2013-2017 to pass legislation to curb profiling by law enforcement and we continue that work today. In conjunction with the Attorney General's office and the task force to end profiling we participated in listening sessions throughout the state and heard the experiences from our members and neighbors of being stopped by law enforcement, detained, and even searched without any transparency as to why they were stopped or whether they had the right to refuse a search. These experiences lead to mistrust and fear and a lack of community safety.

The harm from profiling is often exacerbated once a person is arrested and enters the criminal justice system. This is particularly true for immigrants who are accused of a crime and face being deported and separated from their family. This leads to generational trauma and loss of economic opportunity. We have a chance to address this cycle of ongoing racial injustice with House Bill 2169. The bill will:

- **Promote restorative justice:** Encourage greater use of restorative justice practices with funding provided to the Criminal Justice Commission
- **Prevent unnecessary deportations:** Make diversion possible for immigrants accused of crime, so they can perform community service, pay restitution and/or receive treatment in their community, rather than automatic deportation and traumatic family separation.
- **Expand police oversight:** Authorize the creation of a police oversight agency or board by city and county governments
- **Improve transparency:** Improve public access to personnel files for police officers who have been investigated for misconduct
- **Require police identification:** Require law enforcement officers to inform a stopped person of reason for the stop and that they have the right to refuse a request to search
- **Ensure informed police searches:** Require law enforcement officers to provide name and badge number if the stop doesn't result in an arrest or citation.

Together, we can make Oregon a place where we all have a fair shot and feel safe. **We urge your YES vote on HB 2169.**