



March 18, 2021

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

The Fair Shot for All Coalition supports HB 2169 to provide justice for all as part of our ongoing work towards racial equity in Oregon. **We support all the aspects of the bill** including:

- Encouraging restorative justice: Encourage greater use of restorative justice practices with funding provided to the Criminal Justice Commission
- Preventing 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.
- Expanding police oversight: Authorize the creation of a police oversight agency or board by city and county governments
- Improving transparency: Improve public access to personnel files for police officers who have been investigated for misconduct

However, we will focus on our support for the two provisions related to police stops in this testimony:

- Ensure informed police searches: 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
- Require police identification: Require law enforcement officers to provide name and badge number if the stop doesn't result in an arrest or citation.

Communities of color in Oregon have lived through generations of white supremacist violence and systemic racism. Many people of color—especially Black Oregonians—do not feel safe in their own communities, homes, places of worship, at school, or in public spaces. Continued calls for action from communities across the state have made the need to pass HB 2169 urgent. We **must** act during the 2021 Legislative session to make our public safety and criminal justice system more just.

When we consider the data, we know this bill is a critical step toward addressing the longstanding racial inequities within our criminal justice system. This injustice starts with racial disparities in traffic and pedestrian stops and leads to mass incarceration, death, and generational trauma in Black and other communities of color.

- Black Americans are five times more likely to be pulled over in a vehicle, even though caucasians are three times more likely to have contraband than people of color.
- A 2016 study from the OCJC found that Black people in Oregon were convicted of felony drug possession at more than double the rate of white people.
- Black Oregonians make up more than 9 percent of our state's prison population, though they comprise only 1.8 percent of the state's general population. One in every 21 black men in Oregon is in prison.

As part of our work to curb profiling by law enforcement, in the fall of 2015, members of the Fair Shot coalition attended and participated in the Oregon Attorney General's [listening sessions around the state](#) to hear from community members about their experience with law enforcement and profiling. During each session, dozens of community members, mostly people who identified as Black or people of color, shared their stories about being stopped - and often searched -by law enforcement for unknown or seemingly insignificant reasons. Those stops left the people involved with a lessened sense of safety in their own communities. Added up over a lifetime, those experiences become trauma.

The police stop and informed search provisions of the bill are two important steps to improve community safety by increasing transparency and accountability of our law enforcement system. When community members are informed of their rights, treated with respect, and are armed with the knowledge of why they've been stopped and the name and badge number of the officer involved, they will have more trust in the process and circumstances. The measures proposed under HB 2169 promote thoughtful and ethical behavior and enable follow up after a stop or interaction as needed.

Fair Shot urges you to support all of the recommendations from the Criminal Justice Reform & Police Accountability Committee of the Governor's Racial Justice Council in HB 2169.

About Fair Shot - Our coalition is governed by a steering committee that includes: Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO), Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), Causa Oregon, Family Forward Oregon, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association (OEA), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, Unite Oregon, and Urban League of Portland. For a full list of our coalition members and priorities visit www.fairshotoregon.org.