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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Support for SB 401

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the Committee:

I support SB 401 as we in Oregon work toward creating accountability and healing in our communities. SB 401 ensures that people who have caused harm are responsible to that harm and given opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Our system of mandatory minimums contribute to the rapid growth of our prison population and has led to disproportionate incarceration of diverse communities. It is a discriminatory system that has not made us safer, and wastes taxpayer dollars.

SB 401 will bring long sought after and urgently needed reform to mandatory minimum sentencing and strengthen the role of courts by changing mandatory Measure 11 sentences into guidelines.

US Census 2019 indicates 2.2% of Oregon (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/OR>) population is Black or African alone.

Oregon Department of Corrections reports Adults in Custody on Measure 11 Convictions total 5948 of which 602 or 10.1% are Black.
(<https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/measure-11-offenders.pdf>).

To those that champion a status quo, that might state that opportunity is equal, to those that champion the pioneering or entrepreneurial spirit, the very embodiment characterized by the gold statue on the rotunda of the Oregon State Capitol Building, I would say the facts and outcomes point to a different reality. We can through continued and determined effort do better.

Between 1862 and 2012 through the Homestead Act Oregon pioneers claimed 62,926 Homesteads and 61,441,280 acres.
https://www.blm.gov/or/landsrealty/homestead150/files/HomesteadingFactSheet_2012.pdf

During much of this time from 1857 until it's repeal in 1926, Oregon State Constitution Bill of Rights Section 35, attempted to exclude Black people from holding Real Estate or making contracts and provided for penal laws and removal, for the effectual removal from the State.
https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/exclusion_laws/ .

The Reality Board of Oregon in 1919 approved a Code of Ethics that forbade realtors or bankers from selling or giving loans for property in white neighborhoods to minorities. Forcing Black residents to reside in a small area of Portland.

<https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/nareb-code-of-ethics/>

While we can take solace in not having participation in such depravity, Our sense of responsibility must not forget. Must not forget the uneven playing field, the disparity that was set into motion those years ago.

Please support SB 401, as well as the reforms to HB 2002.

With focused intention we can create a more equitable opportunity as we center accountability and healing.

Thank you,

Christina M Ketcham