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## Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

April 30, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon strongly supports House Bill 2002 to improve public safety in Oregon and reform our criminal justice system. As a member of the Fair Shot for All Coalition, we support this policy as part of the 2021 legislative agenda and the ongoing work to create a fairer and more effective justice system that ensures equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.

Reproductive freedom will never be achieved until all Oregonians are able to choose when and whether to become a parent; have the recognition and resources to care for themselves and their families and communities; and have equitable access to justice, education, and opportunity.

Widespread racial disparities exist throughout Oregon's criminal justice system. Black people represent 2.2 percent of Oregon's population but 9.3 percent of the state's prison population. Additionally, both ethnic and racial disparities were identified in traffic and pedestrian stop data submitted by the Oregon State Police, according to 2019 reporting from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

Incarceration greatly exacerbates the harms of racial targeting by police. Each time we lock someone up, we also sentence their family members to traumatic separation and financial hardship. Two in three families had difficulty meeting basic needs as a result of their loved one's incarceration. Seventy percent of these families were caring for children under 18.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement have exposed systemic injustices in starker light. The system, built atop our long history of white supremacy, continues to disproportionately harm people of color, impacts of which create generational trauma and poverty. With the criminal justice system's extreme focus on punishment, victims and survivors of crime — particularly survivors of color — do not receive adequate support and are sometimes further harmed by the public safety system.

Community leaders from the Governor's Racial Justice Council, Transforming Justice Coalition, Fair Shot for All Coalition, and Legislative leaders from the BIPOC Caucus have joined forces and are working together to create true public safety for our communities. Guided by experts and advocates in the field, we developed proposals that equitably strengthen our communities, including culturally specific programs, housing resources, crime survivor services, and addiction treatment.

HB 2002, with the coalition amendments, will build on our past success with Justice Reinvestment and bring us closer to a public safety system built on accountability, healing, and opportunity. HB 2002 will:

- **Support survivors by increasing funding for and access to community-based victim services** by changing Justice Reinvestment (JRI) funding structure to allocate 15% of available funds to victims, instead of 10%; and fund victim services that support victims who are incarcerated.
- **Reinvest in culturally specific, community-based services** by dedicating 20% of Justice Reinvestment funds to culturally-specific organizations and culturally-responsive service providers

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- **Rebuild lives after incarceration for people on parole or probation** by incentivizing success, limiting revocations, and limiting the number and complexity of conditions imposed on supervision.
- **End the use of arrest and incarceration as the default response to unmet healthcare and other basic needs** by limiting an officer's authority to make a warrantless arrest.
- **Reduce pretextual stops** by limiting the types of infractions for which an officer can initiate a traffic stop to avoid contacts that led to the deaths of Breonna Taylor and others.
- **Limit racial bias-based arrests** by requiring 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

HB 2002 ensures that people who have caused harm are held responsible while also allowing those who caused harm to rebuild their lives. The bill also ensures that crime survivors have the resources they need to heal and invests in culturally-specific services throughout Oregon.

We call on leaders in the legislature to support HB 2002 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with Oregonians' vision for a public safety system rooted in equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon