



May 1, 2021

House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2002, -4**

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Holvey and Drazan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2002 and the -4 Amendment on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 members statewide.

For the past five decades, the United States has dramatically increased its reliance on the criminal justice system as a way to respond to substance use, mental health, and poverty. Oregon is no different. As a result, the U.S. incarcerates more people, in both absolute numbers and per capita, than any other nation in the world. And our overreliance on incarceration does not impact everyone equally: Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) individuals and communities are disproportionately impacted by our mass incarceration system, a system that has transformed our society in profoundly harmful ways, damaged families, and wasted trillions of dollars. This needs to change.

**Our communities are calling for urgent action to reimagine and transform public safety and address the structural racism that is at the root of our public safety and criminal justice systems.** In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement have exposed systemic injustices in stark light, and it is time to work towards a vision of public safety and criminal justice that is built on accountability, healing, and community.

The ACLU of Oregon is proud to have joined community leaders from the Governor's Racial Justice Council, Transforming Justice Coalition, Fair Shot for All Coalition, and legislative leaders from the BIPOC Caucus to reimagine safety for our communities. HB 2002 is critical to Oregonian's calls that our state imagine and build a safer and more equitable Oregon.

HB 2002, with the -4 Amendment, will build on our past successes with the state's Justice Reinvestment initiative<sup>1</sup> and bring us closer towards public safety and criminal justice systems built on accountability, healing, and community.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/jri/Pages/default.aspx>

HB 2002 will:

- Promote a holistic and more effective approach to justice by encouraging greater use of restorative justice practices with funding provided to the Criminal Justice Commission.
- End the use of arrest and incarceration as the default response to unmet mental health and other basic needs by limiting a police officer's authority to make a warrantless arrest.
- 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.
- Abolish supervision fees to help people getting out of prison get back on their feet with fewer financial barriers.
- Reduce pretextual stops by limiting the types of infractions for which a police officer can initiate a traffic stop to avoid the types of "driving while black" police contacts that have led to the deaths of Philando Castile and other BIPOC individuals.
- Limit racial bias based arrests by requiring law enforcement officers to inform a stopped person of the reason for the stop and that they have the right to refuse a request to search.
- Advance equity by requiring race and gender data collection to ensure that reform efforts are reaching impacted communities.

HB 2002 is aligned with Oregonians' vision for public safety and criminal justice systems that are rooted in accountability, healing, and community — and justice and equity for all.

**We urge this committee to support HB 2002 and the -4 Amendment.**

Thank you,



Sandy Chung  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Oregon