



April 30, 2021

Chair Barbara Smith Warner
Vice-Chair Christine Drazan
Vice-Chair Paul Holvey
Members of the House Rules Committee

RE: HB 2002 – Transforming Criminal Justice.

Good afternoon Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in strong support of transforming criminal justice. For the record, my name is Elona J Wilson, and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations with representation from African, African American, Latinx, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities in Oregon.

After the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor there has been an outcry from community for intentional and meaningful criminal justice reform. This is not the first time that we have had a Black Lives Matter movement, but we are committed to making this the last. The last time that Black and brown lives matter any less than others. The last Black and brown lives stolen by those who say they protect and serve. After Mike Brown was murdered in 2014, commitments to police reform and accountability were made that never came true. That is unacceptable and will not happen again.

We are not done yet, and we cannot allow for this movement to die down and for people to forget yet again that Black lives do indeed matter. We must make lasting change, real change, intentional change, so that we do not repeat history. That is why I am asking you to support HB 2002.

The Transform Criminal Justice coalition has met for many months working to ensure that the voices of stakeholders are heard and that this legislation is intentional down to the word. As a coalition, we especially want to thank survivor advocates for feedback on HB 2002.





At its essence, HB 2002 serves to:

- Reduce unnecessary contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses by limiting stops and arrests like the ones that led to the death of Sandra Bland and Daunte Wright
- Abolish supervision fees that make it even harder to achieve economic stability and incentivize people to earn time off their supervision so they can rebuild their lives
- Invest in culturally specific services, victim services, and restorative justice that truly heal and support those impacted
- Advance equity by requiring race and gender data collection to ensure that funds are reaching impacted communities

As, Yoda, one of our dearly beloved figures said: "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering." Our communities have suffered for far too long, been neglected for far too long; it is now time for healing. HB 2002 will repair some of the harm done by finally serving these communities that have been shunned for generations. You will hear from folks from our coalition who will share their lived experiences and policy recommendations- I implore you to listen and listen intently. Remember your commitments to equity and justice because this bill will be a catalyst for change within our communities that will inspire true liberty and justice for all.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I urge you support to take action to change our society for the better by supporting HB 2002 with the amendments.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elona J. Wilson".

Elona J Wilson
Advocacy Director
[Coalition of Communities of Color](http://CoalitionofCommunitiesofColor.org)
elona@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org



Verbal testimony

RE: HB 2002-4 – Transforming Criminal Justice.

Good afternoon Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of transforming criminal justice. For the record, my name is Elona J Wilson, and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color.

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We are not done yet, and we cannot allow for this movement to die down and for people to forget yet again that Black lives do indeed matter. We must make lasting change, real change, intentional change, so that we do not repeat history. That is why I am asking you to support HB 2002.

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On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I urge you to support HB 2002 with the amendments before you today.

Thank you,

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Elona J Wilson
Advocacy Director
[Coalition of Communities of Color](http://CoalitionofCommunitiesofColor.org)
elona@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org





221 NW 2nd Ave, Suite 303, Portland, OR 97209

Phone: 503.200.5722 + info@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org + www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org





Verbal testimony:

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Elona J Wilson
Advocacy Director
[Coalition of Communities of Color](#)
elona@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

