



Date: February 2, 2022  
To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
From: Ames Kessler, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Re: Support for Transforming Justice 2022, SB 1510

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ames Kessler and I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1510 on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. Hunger-Free Oregon is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger.

At Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, we do not seek to just feed our neighbors, we seek our shared liberation from systems of oppression, such as racism, classism, cissexism and other forms of violence, which will allow all to thrive. We believe every Oregonian deserves to feel safe and be treated with dignity. But many of us, especially Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color, feel vulnerable and unprotected in our own communities, homes, and workplaces.

Please support SB 1510 and enact these critically needed changes that are aligned with Oregonians' vision for a public safety system rooted in racial equity, accountability, healing, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ames Kessler  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon