

Submitter: Gary Cobb

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1510

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Gary Cobb, and I'm the community outreach coordinator for Central City Concern Policy Program.

At its core, this bill seeks to change the culture of community supervision into one that builds on people's strengths and creates opportunities for success. It is also important that communities of color and those impacted by the criminal justice system be centered in the development of policy and be at the table for all conversations on legislation. Too often, these communities and groups have been left out of this process. We appreciate Senator Prozanski convening a workgroup that helped center these values.

Like the stops/searches section of the bill, there are a few specific policies that are included in the probation/post-prison supervision section to note. All of them are based off the common belief that people on supervision deserve our support to succeed, not for their supervision to act as a tripwire back into prison.

- It will align the conditions of supervision with state drug laws (instead of federal) to reflect the legalization of Marijuana in Oregon;
- The bill directs DOC to hold a rulemaking process to determine when an officer can visit a person at their workplace and when they cannot; these rules will also cover when certain people on supervision can report to their parole or probation officer remotely;
- The bill will require trauma-informed and culturally specific training for parole and probation officers

I want to speak to the training part of these policies. At Central City Concern where I have worked for 20+ years, Black men and women constantly tell me that they need to "talk like a white person when they visit their PO."

We looked at the training for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and found that there is a significant lack of training requirements for someone to become a PO. Currently, there are 0 hours of culturally-specific or trauma-informed training for POs. There are over 160 hours of training for other things, but it is critical that officers receive training for this. So the bill will require all supervision officers to receive critical training in culturally specific and trauma-informed responses.

I urge your support of SB 1510.