

Date: February 3rd, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Justice Rajee, Director of Reimagine Oregon Project

Re: Support for Transforming Justice 2022, SB 1510

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

My name is Justice Rajee. I am the Director of Reimagine Oregon Project; I am writing in support of SB 1510. Reimagine Oregon Project is a collective accountability tool led by Black leaders designed to hold multiple jurisdictions accountable to the goal of beginning the end of systemic racism in Oregon. SB 1510 will help improve safety for the community, lower barriers to success for returning community members and creates resources to meet the needs of Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other people of color.

SB1510 carries the important unfinished business of HB2002. Our communities have waited far too long for meaningful policy change in our public safety systems. Our communities deserve a public safety system that honors their historical experience with law enforcement and understands that unnecessary contact leads to emotional distress, loss of time, resources and does not make our communities safer. By reducing unnecessary stops community members can take the steps to meet the standards of safe driving without interacting with police officers. Freeing officers to engage with more serious public safety matters and removing the concern that a simple repair issue could escalate to a life-threatening situation for community members.

Prior to my present role, I have served the needs of young people on supervision with our adult parole and probation system for most of the last decade at Portland OIC. I understand the challenges our community members face when they return to the community. SB1510 supports our community members who are fortunate enough to find a good stable job from having that opportunity damaged or lost while complying with the terms of their supervision. SB1510 ensures that returning community members will be able to succeed in their works without the stigma of the supervision and opens options for them to connect with supervision staff that works for all parties involved. Further culturally specific and trauma-informed training for officers will improve quality of work in the profession and lead to a better relationship with the communities they engage.

All change in our society requires an investment. By creating an investment fund targeting culturally specific services SB 1510 will support the growth of the community resources that support the success of our returning community members. These resources will help local non-profits and communities statewide to meet the unique needs of Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other people of color. Allowing robust effective services to grow, creating sustainable community partners to our state systems, and create opportunities former offenders to give back to their communities.

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



Justice Rajee

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