

Submitter: Jessica Johnson

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110  
Implementation

Measure: SB1510

Jessica Johnson  
SB 1510

My name is Jessica Johnson, and my testimony is regarding the racial disparity involving pretextual traffic stops. Over the last months we have heard law enforcement agencies call this portion of the bill into question citing that if pretextual stops were ended that there may be no way to help in the event of trafficking. I want to address this as a trafficking survivor.

I have in fact been stopped by police for traffic infractions while being trafficked. It did not change my outcome. There is a fundamental misunderstanding of when, where, and how trafficking takes place. In my instance unfortunately, the officer lacked the training and experience of knowing how to identify a victim. During the traffic stop, the officer never asked me if I was ok or even said a word to me. I was not saved from the horrors of human trafficking. Further, if an officer truly believes someone is being detained against their will, they do not need to use these kind stops as the reason to pull them over.

Continuing to place Black and Brown lives in danger (including the lives of those being trafficked) by conducting pretext stops under the guise of disrupting sex trafficking is at best negligent and at worst dangerous. I am supporting SB1510 and believe that we can combat sex trafficking but am more than sure that the continued use of pretextual stops is not that answer.