



March 2, 2023

House Committee On Emergency Management,
General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2650

Dear Chair Representative Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Tran, and members of the House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 supporters statewide. The ACLU of Oregon is part of the Transforming Justice Coalition: a group of people who are directly impacted by the criminal justice system, culturally specific service providers, and policy advocates who come together to reimagine our public safety system. **We strongly support House Bill 2650, which would guarantee an equitable process and representation for all workgroups and task forces at the State level.**

At the ACLU of Oregon, we continue to fight for a representative democracy that includes and reflects all communities. It is imperative that democratic decision-making processes involve the communities they serve. However, for decades, processes have created systematic barriers and excluded community members from actively participating in policy making.

Good policy is directly informed by impacted communities. Although the legislature creates task forces and workgroups as a way to create informed policy, impacted communities are often not invited or able to participate in those groups. HB 2650 requires that State workgroups and task forces include impacted communities and community-based organizations and compensate them for their time. The bill ensures there is representation of community members in policy-making workgroups and task forces, which will not only enrich conversation but improve policy making and reduce policy harm.

The passage of House Bill 2650 would create more equitable workgroups and task forces, enhance democratic participation and better policy making. **The ACLU of Oregon urges your support for House Bill 2650 and asks you to pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,

Mariana Garcia Medina, Senior Policy Associate

Email: mgarciamedina@aclu-or.org