



To: Chair Kropf and member of the House Judiciary Committee

Re: Oppose HB 3443

Date: 4/4/2025

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We strongly oppose HB 3443. It will do nothing to reduce gun violence, it will do nothing to prevent gun violence and it will do nothing to provide healing or support to victims of gun violence. It is guaranteed to increase racially biased arrests, charges and sentencing.

The things that will reduce gun violence and increase healing from harm, especially among youth, are ironically the things being proposed for the deepest cuts from the local government and in the state budget.

- ODE's budget proposes to cut Juvenile Crime Prevention program
- The summer and afterschool funding bill was reduced to remove afterschool programming and eliminated most of the enrichment, family engagement and prevention support to focus solely on reading
- City of Portland and Multnomah County have proposed dramatically reducing funding for summer, afterschool, sports, community centers, civic engagement, SUN Community Schools, parent and child early development outreach and education, mentoring and college prep

Instead, the state should focus on policy and services that improve community safety. Support funding for Justice Reinvestment, Community Violence Intervention programs, Restorative Justice, refunding the Juvenile Crime Prevention program. Ensure stable funding for housing, employment and health care programs.

Longer prison sentences do not lead to more community safety. Longer records that are more complicated if not impossible to get out from under do not lead to more community safety. **Please do not support HB 3443**