Testimony in support of HB 2661A
Joint Committee on Public Safety

Co-Chairs Winters and Williamson, Senators Devlin, Whitsett, and Reps. Barker and Hanna:

The Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions submit this testimony in support of HB 2661A, on evaluating disparities in race and ethnicity of citizens stopped, arrested, and subjected to force by police officers.

Community safety, policing and access to justice for communities of color and women is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. This includes the overrepresentation of communities of color among arrested and incarcerated individuals, and the underrepresentation of these communities among professionals serving the public in law enforcement and related fields.

We believe study is needed to better understand the underlying causes of inequities and to inform policy and other decisions, and improve the situation for all Oregonians. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and the Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute at PSU are the right places for both the study and the analysis in our view. The findings of the study will fill important gaps in understanding and be helpful to the work of the Commissions and policy makers.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge the legislature to support this key study.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Andrea Cano, Chair, OCHA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

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