



RE: Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements on IP 44

July 23, 2020

Secretary of State Clarno,

I am writing on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) to express our support for a racial and ethnic analysis of IP 44. APANO unites Asian and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice through advocacy, cultural work, and leadership development. We are deeply committed to advancing racial justice for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and the actions it takes to build a safe community for all Oregonians.

IP 44 would significantly drop the rates of overrepresentation of Black and Native communities in the demographics of misdemeanor convictions. Therefore, this will produce less damage from criminal justice system involvement. Upon review of the report by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), we recognize that there are promising beginnings to equitable treatment but also more to be considered. We ask that the CJC strengthen the analysis by including the following:

Looking into the arrests. In addition to convictions, the study should also look at misdemeanor arrests. Arrests bring considerable harm to a person's livelihood, with Black and Indigenous Oregonians feeling the effects disproportionately throughout the state.

Consider how this may affect racial disparities in police stops, sentencing, fines, probation supervision and parole supervision. In Multnomah County, people of color experience longer stays, both in pretrial and sentenced, than white individuals. For a Black adult, this averages to a stay of 16.8 days compared to 11 days for a white adult. If there is not consistent data locally, we should look towards national trends in data to determine the gaps in punishment that can result in an impartial procedural process.

Recognize the variation of consequences of arrests for different communities. Arrests have detrimental effects on individuals, families, and communities. An arrest of an individual with immigrant status risks the possibility of being deported and ultimately torn apart from their families. We emphasize that there is no single experience across all communities and look to seeing equitable processes reflected in the study.

IP 44 removes criminal charges for small drug possessions and provides treatment and support instead. These additions will provide a deeper connection to racial and ethnic equity by decreasing criminalization in the many forms it takes. Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully request the CJC to develop further analysis of racial disparities in the study.

Sincerely,
Lanea Olson