

The HRC has not taken an official position on S.241 however we continue to share the concerns that Allen Gilbert has raised with regard to racial profiling in enforcement of marijuana crimes and in stops and searches for drugs generally.

The information Allen highlights is the reason that data collection efforts and analysis are so important. In addition, only new recruits are getting training on FIP principles so there has not been time for all of the work we have done on policy and data collection to know how well the FIP policies and training are working. Only new recruits get the FIP training unless the agency makes an effort to send others so there are a lot of officers out there who may have read their agency's policy but may not understand implicit bias and the role it plays in perceptions and behavior. And because unconscious bias, even when someone recognizes they might have it, continues to influence behavior unless consciously suppressed, profiling based on race is likely to continue but hopefully over time can be reduced. In the meantime, taking marijuana related stops out of the picture would help to curb the inequitable enforcement.

If the committee would like me to testify, I am happy to do so. I am not available on Wed. 4/6 in the afternoon.

Karen