

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 16
Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee
By Amy Davidson, Crime Survivors Program Director
Partnership for Safety and Justice
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Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Davidson and I am the Crime Survivors Program Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice. We are a statewide, non-profit organization that has worked in Oregon since 1999 to advance policy solutions to crime that ensure justice, equity, accountability, and healing to achieve safe and strong communities. I'm here today to ask for your support of SB 16.

I spent over a decade working with both crime survivors and the people who caused them harm in an intimate direct service setting. Overwhelmingly, survivors felt that their process of healing could only occur if they felt safe, and if they heard the person who caused them harm take responsibility for what occurred. For many, this has a more lasting impact than even the feeling of a restored sense of safety that comes with the incarceration of the person who harmed them.

This bill has the potential for truly meaningful impact to an existing program that facilitates a process of accountability and healing. The Oregon Dept. of Corrections has set forth a proposal that offers inmates and survivors broader confidentiality when they elect to participate in a Facilitated Dialogue or utilize the Responsibility Letter Bank Program.

Practitioners of restorative process know that honest transference of information and story creates the strongest space for healing to occur for both sides of the harm. It is nearly impossible to achieve that level of honesty without the promise of confidentiality. The experience of losing control over one's information relating to the intimate details of harm caused to them can essentially feel like re-victimization by the system to survivors.

For those who caused harm, a common feeling over time is the desire to express remorse directly to the person they harmed. While the Facilitated Dialogue process offers no guarantees to either party, it does provide a means for a person who caused harm to engage in their own continuum of accountability, healing and change without the expectation of forgiveness. This is part and parcel in restorative process work. For the person who was harmed, it offers a way for them to finally receive the information they have needed *on their terms* so they can move forward. Under the provisions of SB 16, Facilitated Dialogues and the Responsibility Letter Bank Program can meet both these needs.

Accountability stands to change behavior in ways punishment cannot. SB 16 may be one answer to the question of whether we're really doing all we can to meet the needs of those impacted by crime. Please support SB 16 and support real healing.