

ALLUVIUM Church  
810 W 3rd Ave  
Eugene, Oregon

February 8th, 2023

Dear Oregon Legislative Assembly's Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee,

My name is Dr. Eli Varedas and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am the owner and steward of Alluvium, a center for spiritual nourishment and expression located in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for continued funding of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program (RJGP). In 2021, the legislature took an important step by investing in restorative justice and its use as an alternative to prosecution. This grant program has helped establish and expand eight programs across the state. As you consider the agency's 2023-2025 budget, I strongly urge you to consider the incredible potential these developing programs have in improving public safety, reducing the state's reliance on incarceration, and providing healing for crime survivors.

I care about Oregon continuing to fund and expand the RJGP because restorative justice provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability. There are strong benefits for everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community.

Restorative Justice empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for and work towards repairing the harm they caused. Data from programs across America and the globe demonstrates high levels of success related to increased survivor satisfaction rates, lowered recidivism rates, and lowered costs when compared to criminal justice responses. The growth of Restorative Justice programs in Oregon would directly benefit the Alluvium community by providing a modality to address conflict in a way that promotes repair rather than punishment.

As a resident of and business owner in Eugene, it is important to me that restorative justice continues to be practiced in my community because I feel safer knowing that this option is available to survivors and the person responsible for the harm.

In conclusion, I am proud to live in a state that is a national leader in restorative justice programming. I believe that it is very important for Oregon to continue funding alternatives to prosecution and incarceration like restorative justice.

Funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program would demonstrate to me that the legislature is committed to addressing the racial injustice in our criminal legal system.

I strongly believe that the legislature should continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program.



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jabi E. Shriki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jabi Elijah Shriki MD  
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The logo for Alluvium, featuring the word "Alluvium" in a blue, serif font. The text is set against a background of light blue, swirling, brushstroke-like lines that form an oval shape around the word.