

February 9, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

I write to indicate full support for SB 586. I am a member of the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon (RJCO), and served as a member of the RJCO Coordinating Committee for several years. Our master's program partners with community dispute resolution centers, government entities, and others to train graduate students in restorative justice philosophy and facilitation methods for application in a wide array of contexts. In 2021, HB 2204 enhanced an already flourishing RJ movement in Oregon, creating additional resources to support these processes throughout the state. We will continue to see increased activity in this area, and this bill updates Oregon's confidentiality laws to add critical protections to this process.

The evidence base supporting restorative justice efficacy is well established, and will continue to grow with more resources and public awareness. Restorative justice offers healing to victims of crime, accountability for those who cause harm, and an opportunity for healing within the community. It is a critical component for building a more just, equitable, and efficient justice system. Passing HB 2204 brings us one step closer to realizing this vision.

Sincerely,



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