

FOR OREGON RESIDENTS

February 13, 2023

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

My name is Rosie Strange and I live in Hood River, 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.
- 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.
- Personal anecdote (if applicable).

[Restorative justice is practiced in many counties across Oregon, including Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Multnomah, Polk, Wasco, and Washington. Several tribes have peacemaking courts that incorporate similar practices.]

As a resident of Wasco county, 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosie Strange