

February 14, 2023

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

My name is Katie Clason and I live and work in Deschutes County, Oregon as a deputy district attorney. I am the deputy district attorney assigned to work on the Deschutes County Emerging Adult Program, a pre-charge restorative justice program for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24. 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 enhancing public safety by reducing recidivism, improving victim and offender outcomes, and reducing the burden on the traditional criminal justice system.

I care about Oregon continuing to fund and expand the RJGP because restorative justice

- improves community safety by reducing recidivism.
- requires offenders to take accountability, understand the impacts of their actions, take action to repair the harm they caused.
- empowers victims of crime by allowing them to exercise agency and control in the aftermath of a crime.
- conserves scarce prosecutorial and judicial resources for use in cases that require them.

As a prosecutor and resident of Deschutes County, it is important to me that

- restorative justice continues to be practiced in Deschutes County because it improves outcomes for victims, offenders, and the community as a whole.

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 traditional prosecution, such as restorative justice.

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,

/s/ Katie Clason

