

Dear Chair Steiner, Chair Sanchez, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Stephanie Damon-Moore and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for continued funding of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program (RJGP).

I care about Oregon continuing to fund the Restorative Justice Grant Program because restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm. The traditional criminal justice system paints offenders and victims in black and white, but the reality is that virtually everyone charged with a crime has been the victim of many crimes themselves. If we care about all members of our society, and actually want to intervene in cycles of violence to protect our entire community, we need to use creativity and compassion, and restorative justice is a practical, well-developed, and impactful way to do that.

As a resident of Multnomah County, it is important to me that my community continue to have restorative justice programming that serves as an alternative to prosecution. Both the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County District Attorneys office have implemented programs that are funded by the Restorative Justice Grant Program. These programs are important to the community and could not exist without the RJGP.

Funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program would demonstrate to me that the legislature is committed to creating more equitable approaches to harm that center the needs of survivors.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Damon-Moore

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