

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

My name is Kathleen Walker and I live in Portland, Oregon. I work as a primary care medical provider at a non-profit federally qualified health center in Portland. 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 community-based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system. It is more efficient both in terms of resources expended and means-tested outcomes, getting us closer to the results we actually want.

As a resident of Portland, it is important to me that the two programs that are currently funded by the RJGP continue to operate in my city. Both programs were created by the RJGP in 2022 and have huge potential to decrease crime and increase healing for crime survivors.

Please renew the Restorative Justice Grant Program so that it can continue to impact the lives of crime survivors and encourage those who have caused harm to take real accountability, without the cost of prison and/or jail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Walker