

Submitter: Sara Mulroy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Chair Steiner, Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Sara Mulroy and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a public defender working exclusively in Multnomah County. 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 for a variety of reasons:

- ? Restorative justice provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability.
- ? Oregon needs more approaches to harm that do not involve incarceration or conviction.
- ? Restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm.
- ? There are strong benefits for everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community.
- ? Community based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system.
- ? Restorative justice empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for and work towards repairing the harm they caused. This leads to true accountability and reduced recidivism.

As a resident of Multnomah 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 people who commit 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 so I think that the legislature should continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program.

Best,
Sara Mulroy
Resident of NE Portland
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