



Testimony for the Continued funding of RJGP

Dear Senator Janeen Sollman and Representative Paul Evans,

My name is Wemimo Ayannubi, and I am the Community Resource Advocacy Coordinator for Conflict Artistry LLC. I write to you today on behalf of Conflict Artistry LLC, to support the continued funding of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program (RJGP).

Conflict Artistry LLC is a recently funded organization through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission as a pilot Restorative Justice program that is dialogue-based, community-oriented, and healing-centered. We appreciate the efforts of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, which through HB 2204 funding, has given Oregonians another option of strengthening the community with accountability and reintegration. The CJC's Restorative Justice-funded projects have covered most counties in the state and have the support of state partners, private practitioners, and community-based practitioners across Oregon. For years, Restorative Justice programs across the state have been working to divert criminal cases by creating a process that seeks to repair harm, where those harmed can express and address their needs. Those that have caused harm can have the opportunity to be guided through a transformative process where they are encouraged to take accountability for their actions.

Conflict Artistry LLC has made strides to create a Restorative Justice Program rooted in community engagement, inclusion, integration, Justice Reform and Public Safety. During this funding year, Conflict Artistry LLC has built a meaningful and intentional relationship with the

community, hosting community engagement events, workshops, connected with several community partners, through building partnership, professional development, and mutual community education to create communal engagement, and hear how the agency can better serve the community. The community has expressed her need for this diversion program that is intentional, and survivor focused, as well as community reintegration and building community accountability with one another.

Conflict Artistry LLC has been working diligently since its inception to create a reformed practice that will serve Oregon communities holistically, facilitating transformative dialogues with and between participants that have caused harm and participants that have been harmed, and including community representatives as appropriate.

All community members are stakeholders in these restorative justice practices, and it is necessary that their participation in community safety and inclusion is guaranteed. We recognize the importance of Restorative Justice programs as they provide an alternative method of justice that gives the community a survivor-centered healing practice, that empowers those that have caused harm to experience transformation through dialogue and the courage to take accountability for their actions.

We urge the Legislature to continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Programs, as this demonstrates a commitment to community welfare and safety, as well as a commitment to Justice and Equity. Thank you for your continuous commitment towards upholding Public Safety, and Community inclusion.

Sincerely,

Langston Mayo, Communications Coordinator

Laura Diamond, Partnership Development Coordinator

Sophia Solano, Human Resources & Logistics Coordinator

Wemimo Ayannubi, Community Resource Advocacy Coordinator