



**PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Submitted to the JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY on February 10, 2021**

**Testimony in Support of HB 5005  
By Amy Davidson, Partnership for Safety & Justice**

Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sollman, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Davidson and I'm the Crime Survivor Program Director at Partnership for Safety & Justice. PSJ advocates for public safety and criminal justice policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 20 years, our work has promoted public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

On behalf of Partnership for Safety and Justice, I respectfully request your support of HB 5005, which would fund Justice Reinvestment. We request it be funded at \$53.1 million for the 2021-2023 biennium.

JRI has guided Oregon as well as states across the nation on rethinking approaches to public safety with local solutions that are more effective and efficient. Throughout our state, the approach has seeded enormous shifts that hold people appropriately accountable while also building local infrastructure so that justice-involved people have an actual pathway to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

We also know that when Justice Reinvestment passed in 2013, there was really no racial equity lens. In 2021, we can't look away from what we've learned regarding barriers to access, gaps in service delivery, disparate incarceration rates and also victim services. PSJ is working with a coalition of organizations on a bill, HB 2002, to ensure a commitment to equity for Justice Reinvestment. If JRI funds can continue to decrease prison utilization and we also invest more in victims and culturally specific services, *then* JRI would actually be making incredibly important and timely investments as we face a large budget deficit. We could heed the growing call and need to address racial disparity in our criminal justice system. A Justice Reinvestment program that wholeheartedly embraces equity and addresses disparity is positioned to set new standards for public safety across the state -- one that finds value in building communities rather than prisons, that places crime survivors at the center of the public safety conversation, and where accountability and rehabilitation are not mutually exclusive. We urge your support for HB 5005.

