

Any bill that increases the amount of restitution owed by a defendant will make it harder for them to move forward. The ability to set aside a conviction depends on the full satisfaction of the sentence, meaning a fully paid off case. I have seen people who pay over whole decades at the rate of \$25 or \$50 a month and still struggle to pay it all off. \$100 here or a few hundred there makes a huge difference and if the money isn't going to true victims, it shouldn't be increased. Certainly the presumption should not be in favor of higher restitution.

We have other ways in which the law can already ensure a victim can be made whole, including through civil compromise. Though difficult to use because of the State's absolute opposition to it, the law can give us a better mechanism than this bill to improve how restitution is handled.