

Submitter: Mary Wallace
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB586

Dear Committee Members,

As a volunteer restorative dialogue facilitator in Multnomah County, I strongly urge you to pass SB 586. Restorative justice is about creating a space where those who have caused harm and those who have been harmed can speak openly about what happened, as well as the impacts of what happened. Central to the process is the ability of the person who caused harm to take full responsibility for their actions in order to be accountable to the person/people they harmed. This space can only be created if the person who caused harm can be assured that what they say in a restorative justice process will not be used against them later in a possible legal proceeding. If we cannot assure them of this, then the process is hemmed in from the beginning, fails to be meaningful, and cannot reach its full potential.

Thank you for considering the importance of this legislation for our ability to transform how we think about and work through harm and justice in our communities.

Sincerely,
Mary (Molly) Wallace