



Greetings, Senate Judiciary Committee,

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 Senate Bill 586.

Conflict Artistry LLC is one of the recently-funded organizations through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, as a pilot Restorative Justice program that is dialogue-based, community-oriented and healing-centered. Our organization is also a member of the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon (RJCO) whose Community Action & Advocacy subcommittee has worked diligently to develop a legislative concept that will strengthen Restorative Justice in Oregon by making program communications confidential. This is a similar protection to what is currently offered to mediators in 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 that have been harmed can express and address their needs, and 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 been working diligently since its inception to create a restorative 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 is protected through a strong confidentiality standard.

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 appreciate the efforts of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, who through the HB 2204 funding, has given Oregonians another option of strengthening community, with the aim of accountability and re-integration.

Please do not let the community lose these programs due to the fear of lack of protection around their participation in Restorative Justice programs. A confidentiality statute ensures a safe and restorative dialogue process for all participants.

Sincerely,

Wemimo Ayannubi, Community Resource Advocacy Coordinator

Sophia Solano, Process & Logistics Coordinator

Laura Diamond, Partnership Development Coordinator

Langston Mayo, Communications Coordinator

Brittany Banna, Human Resources Coordinator