



Esteemed members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Over the past six months, the Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon (RJCO)'s Community Action & Advocacy subcommittee has worked diligently to develop a legislative concept that will support and strengthen restorative justice processes across the state of Oregon with necessary confidentiality protections. We are grateful for this opportunity to advance SB586 and thank you for your thorough consideration of these measures.

RJCO is a growing Coalition of more than 70 members, many of which are organizations that include additional individual members. Together we are more than 120 people committed to continued learning, development, and sharing of a diverse range of restorative justice practices. Our members include representatives from a multitude of sectors, including nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, and other organizations working to facilitate restorative responses to harm and conflict.

Several of our members were funded through the historic passing of HB2204 in 2021 which has distributed \$4M to community-based pilot projects that will provide restorative justice alternatives to prosecution in Oregon. In order for these emerging programs to be fully effective in facilitating accountability processes for survivors of crime and those who have caused harm, the values of honesty and full transparency must be maintained. Open communication between parties without fear of a punitive legal consequence is necessary for meaningful exploration of impacts on all who were affected. Strong confidentiality protections will allow participants of a restorative justice process to be secure in sharing vulnerable details of their experience that can inform what is needed for healing to occur.

SB586 outlines confidentiality protections similar to those already afforded to specific Department of Corrections restorative justice processes as well as mediators. By broadening these important confidentiality measures specifically to include community-based restorative justice programs, legislators can empower the potential for truth-telling and accountability in dialogue-based processes that can both prevent and address serious and complex harms.

The RJCO Coordinating Committee urges you to advocate for these important protections. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Solano, Staff Coordinator  
On behalf of the RJCO Coordinating Committee