



February 16, 2023

Testimony SB 5505

Dear Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the 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 5505.

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. 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. The CJC's Restorative Justice funded projects have covered most counties in the state, and have the support of state partners, private practitioners, as well as community based practitioners across the state of 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 made strides to create a Restorative Justice Program rooted in community engagement, inclusion, integration, Justice Reform and Public Safety. During this

funding year, Conflict Artistry LLC has connected with a number of community partners, through building partnership, professional development, and mutual community education.

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 in community safety and inclusion is guaranteed.

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 urge the Legislature to continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Programs, as this demonstrates a commitment to community welfare and safety, as well as a commitment to Justice and Equity.

Thank you for your continuous commitment towards upholding Public Safety, and Community inclusion.

Sincerely,

Brittany Banna, Human Resources Coordinator

Langston Mayo, Communications Coordinator

Laura Diamond, Partnership Development Coordinator

Sophia Solano, Process & Logistics Coordinator

Wemimo Ayannubi, Community Resource Advocacy Coordinator