



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

**Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 22, 2023**

**Testimony in Support of SB 344
By Shannon Wight, Deputy Director - Partnership for Safety & Justice**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Shannon Wight and I am the Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety & Justice.

At Partnership for Safety & Justice, we advocate for public safety and criminal justice policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 20 years, our work has promoted public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

Partnership for Safety & Justice was active in the creation of the Justice Reinvestment (JRI) program in 2013, and we have remained supportive of the program over the past decade, often in partnership with a variety of community partners. JRI was created to reduce the state's reliance on our prison system by investing in community-based services and supports. The program has been very successful and has prevented the need for Oregon to open new prisons. Testimony that you have heard today certainly demonstrates the success this program has demonstrated, and the victim and survivor service funding within this program has been critical to its success in all 36 counties.

In 2022, PSJ and the Transforming Justice Coalition successfully advocated for the creation of the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP) to help strengthen JRI overall.

Partnership for Safety & Justice strongly supports extending the sunset of this important program to 2033. It has shown its effectiveness in reducing Oregon's prison population, and it will help continue the important work towards ensuring all communities are safe and healthy.

We urge your support of SB 344 with the -1 amendment.