

Dear Chair Steiner, Chair Sanchez, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Nolan Johnson and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for continued funding of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program (RJGP).

I care about Oregon continuing to fund the Restorative Justice Grant Program because, in part, restorative justice reduces costs in the long run. The cost to house incarcerated people in the US is enormous and restorative justice is a far cheaper and more effective approach to addressing harm than prisons or jails. Restorative justice is an important alternative to prosecution and will help keep people in the community, while reducing our reliance on incarceration and the huge cost it creates for taxpayers.

I am proud to live in a state that is a national leader in restorative justice. I believe that it is very important for Oregon to continue funding alternatives to prosecution and incarceration like restorative justice. Funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program would demonstrate to me that the legislature is committed to creating more equitable approaches to harm that center the needs of survivors.

Sincerely,  
Nolan Johnson