

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

My name is Asha Toulmin 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 restorative justice creates better options for everyone: crime survivors, people who have caused harm, and the community. There is strong data from across the country and the globe that demonstrates the efficacy of restorative justice in reducing recidivism and increasing survivor satisfaction. In addition, restorative justice creates stronger feelings of community and connectedness, that also play a role in why people are less likely to reoffend after going through a restorative process. I live in Portland, where we have two programs funded by the RJGP. I am eager to see these programs complete their pilot year and begin to grow and make a big impact on my city. That cannot happen unless the Restorative Justice Grant Program is renewed.

Initiatives like these are source solutions for incredibly thorny problems and I would be deeply disappointed to see any lack of investment in this area as divestment or decrease in funding would almost certainly lead to poorer outcomes and higher costs for Oregonians like me.

I am proud to live in a state that has recognized the importance of restorative justice. It is my strong desire that Oregon continue to fund the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program.

Sincerely,
Asha Toulmin