

Submitter: Lori Loranger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB586

April 18, 2023

Dear Representative Kropf and the Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Lori Loranger and I work at Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center in Hood River, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for SB586 as a necessary expansion of pre-existing confidentiality statutes. In 2021, the legislature took an important step by investing in restorative justice and its use as an alternative to prosecution. Common stages in restorative justice processes include preparation, facilitated dialogue, and repair. There are many benefits to these processes, stemming particularly from the ability of dialogue to find and address the core issues causing harm.

Confidentiality is an essential part of the process, allowing for open and honest communication between all parties. Similar facilitated dialogue programs run by DOC, OYA, and the PSRB are also protected by confidentiality statutes. I strongly urge you to consider the importance of SB586 in strengthening these developing programs, which have great potential to improve public safety, reduce the state's reliance on incarceration, and provide healing for crime survivors.

I care about Oregon continuing to support these programs because restorative justice...

- ? provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability.
- ? benefits everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community.
- ? empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for and work towards repairing the harm they caused.
- ? demonstrates high levels of success related to increased survivor satisfaction rates, lowered recidivism rates, and lowered costs when compared to criminal justice responses, according to data from programs across America and the globe.

Restorative justice is practiced in many counties across Oregon, including Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Multnomah, Polk, Wasco, and Washington. Several tribes have peacemaking courts that incorporate similar practices.

Please support SB586.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Loranger