

Dear Representative Paul Evans and senator Janeen Sollman

My name is Brandon Brown 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 and expand the Restorative Justice Grant Program because... Restorative justice provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability. Oregon needs more approaches to harm that do not involve incarceration or conviction.

Restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm. There are strong benefits for everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community.

Community based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system.

Restorative justice empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for and work towards repairing the harm they caused. This leads to true accountability and reduced recidivism.

Personal anecdote (if applicable).

As a resident of Multnomah county, it is important to me that...

Restorative justice continues to be practiced in my community because I feel safer knowing that this option is available to survivors and people who commit harm.

My community has the opportunity to experience the benefits of restorative justice.

In conclusion... I am proud to live in a state that is a national leader in restorative justice programming.

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.

I strongly believe that the legislature should continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandon Brown

Restorative Roots Project Facilitator