

Submitter: Sonya Kaidanov
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

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

My name is Sonya Kaidanov 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 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 and this leads to true accountability and reduced recidivism.

As a resident of Portland 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.

In conclusion, I believe that it is very important for Oregon to continue funding alternatives to prosecution and incarceration like restorative justice and 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.

Best,
Sonya Kaidanov
April 27th, 2023