

Submitter: Arian Mobasser
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hello. Thanks for your work to build healthier communities.

I currently serve as director of the Men's Resource Center at the University of Oregon and consultant to K-12 school districts in Oregon and Washington to develop programs that empower young men and boys to be in healthier relationship with themselves and others. I earned my doctorate degree in developmental science and psychology with a research focus on psychological well-being during adolescence.

SB 5506's represents a significant improvement to the health and well-being of our youth, particularly with respect to its continued funding of innovative restorative justice programs in the state. In combination with my own experience of working directly with youth, evidence from developmental research strongly suggests that restorative practices can undermine the re-infliction of harm currently created through existing punitive approaches within our legal system. By continuing to fund these programs, you substantively increase the likelihood of repair and healing for victims of harm who use these programs. In turn, you also decrease the likelihood of repeat offenders (of which there are many) by allowing better opportunities for learning and growth for those who've perpetrated harm.

Please vote in support of SB 5506.