

Submitter: Bill Lennox

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5005

Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Committee,
My name is William Lennox and I am a board member at Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, a nonprofit community mediation and restorative justice center serving Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties.

I am writing to urge the subcommittee to pass the Criminal Justice Commission budget with sufficient funding for the Restorative Justice Grant Program. Without this critical funding, much of Oregon's vital and effective restorative justice work could be lost or stalled.

At Six Rivers, we are using funds from this program to launch Circles of Peace, a restorative justice initiative tailored to our rural communities. Now in its pilot year, this program was developed based on a comprehensive community readiness assessment, which demonstrated strong public support for restorative justice as an option for victims and survivors of crime. You can learn more about the program at <https://6rivers.org/circles-of-peace/>.

In my past work as the Chief Deputy of the Wasco County Sheriff's Office and a prior Wasco County Commissioner,

I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact of restorative justice on both survivors and those responsible for harm.

Continued funding will enable Six Rivers and other community-based programs across Oregon to sustain and expand this essential work—reducing crime, fostering accountability, and promoting healing for survivors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Bill Lennox, Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center Board member