

Submitter: Andy Oliver  
On Behalf Of: Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center  
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 Andy Oliver and I am a staff 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/>.

As staff member, I was part of a case that created a safety agreement between two youths which put an end to an on-going violent bullying situation and allowed them to continue in school together.

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,  
Andy Oliver

Restorative Justice Specialist