



**To:** Joint Subcommittee On Public Safety

**Date:** February 13, 2025

**RE:** Support for HB 5005 & the Restorative Justice Grant Fund

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on to provide our support for the passage of HB 5005 and, in particular, POP 106 which allocates dedicated funding for the Restorative Justice Gant Fund. I would actually urge you to allocate at least \$6-7M in funding for these programs.

At a time when Oregon has much to be ashamed of, when our school success rates are some of the worst in the nation, when youth and adult homelessness rates in Oregon far exceed the national average, when we rank dead last for drug use and addiction, when veterans in Oregon have the country's worst suicide rates, when you could argue that the state is more broken than fixed, our statewide Restorative Justice Grant Fund is something that we can be immensely proud of.

Over the last four years, the Oregon Legislature, through the Criminal Justice Commission, has funded the creation of some of the most innovative, victim-led, community-driven and impactful public safety programs ever developed in our state – if not in the nation. From coastal communities in Lincoln County, to Medford and Grants Pass, from Bend to Wasco County and the Columbia Gorge, from Lane and Marion counties up through Washington, Portland and Clackamas, there are now 15 local programs working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, District Attorneys, Victim Advocates and dozens of community partners to help deliver justice, safety and accountability without resorting to incarceration.

Study after study on Restorative Justice has shown an 85% average satisfaction and positive outcome rate for all those involved. This is vastly better than the outcomes achieved by most traditional justice responses to crime. These positive outcomes directly correlate to victims who feel heard and can heal, reduced system costs - prosecution, public defense, courts, jail/prisons, probation, etc. – and offenders who must, and do, take responsibility for their actions and make amends to those they have harmed.

Having invested \$8M in these local Restorative Justice programs across all of Oregon in the last four years, now is the time to both continue and build on these impactful programs so that our communities can reap the long-lasting benefits of true community and victim-led justice.

Again, I urge you to support HB 5005 and allocate \$6-7M in funding towards POP 106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Fulford", written over a horizontal line.

**Simon Fulford, Executive Director**