

Submitter:

Keiler Beers

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB938

My name is Keiler Beers and I'm a public defender in Portland, Oregon, writing to ask for your support of SB 938. It is important that restorative justice programming has stable and sustainable funding in order to continue to provide necessary support to those that it serves. Restorative justice is a crucial, and growing, piece of our criminal legal system. It offers a mechanism for victims and survivors to engage meaningfully with the people who have caused them harm, and requires accountability from those responsible without relying solely on incarceration as a blunt tool to do so. It is demonstrably effective at preventing recidivism, building victim satisfaction with the legal processes, and reducing court costs. I work with youth in the legal system and have seen first hand how many of my clients have grown from a restorative justice process- they've developed empathy and understanding for the harm they've caused, all while preventing further penetration into a legal system that could cause them greater harm.