

Submitter: Max Vogel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB938

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Max Vogel and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a public defender writing to express my support of restorative justice and of SB 938. I care deeply about restorative justice because it represents a valuable option towards healing and accountability for victims and survivors. As a public defender, I see every day how the traditional criminal system drives our communities further apart. The current system pulls our already-marginalized neighbors out of their communities and into prisons. The adversarial nature of the legal system forces victims through a process that is frequently retraumatizing, rather than healing, and incentivizes defendants to not talk about their case with anyone but their lawyer, which is a terrible prospect for reflection and real accountability. Restorative justice represents a true source of optimism in how to keep our communities safer, and I hope we expand access to this option at every opportunity.

Thank you for taking the time to receive my testimony and please vote yes on SB 938.

Sincerely,
Max Vogel