



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 938
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

OCDLA supports restorative justice and SB 938. It is important to have stable funding and a well-resourced coalition to support this important work.

Oregon needs more approaches to harm that do not involve incarceration or conviction. Community-based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system and is important for representing the unrepresented crisis. More punishment and incarceration do not increase public safety.

Restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm. When a victim's wants diverge from a prosecutor's desire to prosecute, punish and incarcerate, the victim's voice is silenced. We need a more just and fair criminal legal system for all people to move through the system.

Restorative justice provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability. Restorative justice empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for and work towards repairing the harm they caused. This leads to true accountability and reduced recidivism.

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

Mae Lee Browning
Legislative Director
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association¹

¹ OCDLA's 1,200 members statewide include public defense providers, private bar attorneys, investigators, experts, and law students. Our attorneys represent Oregon's children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, youth in juvenile delinquency proceedings, adults in criminal proceedings at the trial and appellate level, as well as civil commitment proceedings throughout the state of Oregon. Our mission is championing justice, promoting individual rights, and supporting the legal defense community through education and advocacy.