



Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

Our names are Jenna Kress and Erica Washington and we work on the Restorative Justice Project at Equal Justice USA. As a national training and technical assistance provider, we have been providing ongoing support to those doing restorative justice work in Multnomah County for many years. We are writing to express our support of restorative justice and of SB 938. We know from what we have seen in many communities across the country that it is important to have stable funding and a well resourced coalition to support this important work.

Restorative Justice provides a tremendous benefit to communities. It gives victims and survivors a valuable option for healing that is focussed on meeting their needs. Restorative justice provides a supportive structure for those that have caused harm to engage in meaningful accountability by acknowledging, taking responsibility for and working towards repairing the harm they caused along with addressing the root causes that lead to the harm, which promotes public safety. It supports the overall wellbeing of community members by providing opportunities for meaningful engagement, relationship building, and connection.

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

Sincerely,

Jenna Kress and Erica Washington

Restorative Justice Strategist & Senior Strategist