



February 20, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Zach Winston, Director of Policy and Outreach, OJRC

RE: **In Support of SB 938**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

My name is Zach Winston. I am the Director of Policy and Outreach at the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC). I am writing in support of SB 938.

The OJRC works to promote civil rights and improve legal representation for communities that have often been underserved in the past including people living in poverty and people of color. We work to create a more fair, just and humane criminal legal system and to educate the public on issues related to civil rights and liberties.

We strongly support SB 938, which will provide stable and continuous funding for restorative justice programs and expand participation in those programs for justice-involved individuals. Research establishes that Restorative Justice programs are more effective than incarceration and other traditional criminal sanctions at:

1. Addressing and healing harms suffered by those who are victims of crime;
2. Helping those who have caused harm to acknowledge the full extent of that harm and their responsibility for it and take meaningful steps to provide redress to the victims and community they have harmed; and
3. Reducing the risk of recidivism by those who become involved in the criminal legal system.

Restorative Justice programs provide resources and outcomes that are typically foreclosed or otherwise not available within traditional criminal legal processes and sanctions. Restorative Justice programs often divert justice-involved individuals from potential incarceration into a more just and effective process that includes community supervision, restorative justice programs, and treatment, at significant cost-savings to the State.¹

The OJRC urges the committee to support SB 938.

Thank You,

Zach Winston

Zach Winston
Oregon Justice Resource Center
Director of Policy and Outreach

¹ The Oregon Department of Corrections reports that it costs \$173.88 a day (\$63,466.20 per year) to incarcerate a single prisoner but just \$13.83 a day (\$5,047.95 per year) to supervise them in the community. <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/agency-quick-facts.pdf>.