



Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Saetia Anais Gardner, and I live in the St. Johns neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. I moved to Oregon over 10 years ago in pursuit of a life that better reflected my values of caring for my community and creating a stronger and healthier society. Since then I've earned my undergraduate degree through OSU, and my Masters in Social Work through PSU. I now work at Restorative Roots Project, a Portland-based restorative justice non-profit, as a Restorative Justice Facilitator. I am writing to you today to express my support for SB 938. Restorative justice is a necessary resource in our communities, and now more than ever it is critical to have stable funding and a well resourced coalition to continue this work.

I came to care so deeply about restorative justice because of my life experiences as a survivor of interpersonal violence. I grew up in a complicated and deeply traumatized family, though a family that loves each other deeply. As a family that had endured generations of trauma, we often unintentionally harmed one another. However, in our culture repair is absolutely essential to meaningful relationships. Through restorative practices that were quite intuitive to us, the the harm we caused one another was consistently repaired.

As a young adult, I found myself experiencing domestic violence at the hands of a partner. As you may know, domestic violence is a complicated and nuanced experience. There are many reasons that people are unable to leave or repair these relationships. Even though my partner harmed me, I cared for him deeply and did not want him to have to endure the criminal-legal system. I understood that he too had endured trauma in his life that made it difficult to process emotions like anger, sadness, or jealousy.

I share these stories to share the importance of restorative justice work in healing interpersonal harm. Restorative justice allows all humans impacted by harm the dignity and the opportunity to truly heal. Restorative justice as an alternative to incarceration allows survivors the chance to pursue safety without the fear or guilt of harming someone they care for. Most importantly, restorative justice gives the community tools that they need to work through conflict, which creates a thriving and strong society.

Thank you for taking the time to receive my testimony as both a survivor and restorative justice practitioner. I urge you to vote yes on SB 938.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saetia Anais", with a long, wavy line extending to the right.

Saetia Anais