

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ulises Medrano I am from Las Vegas and now call Oregon My home. I work as a public defender, and I am writing to express my strong support for restorative justice and SB 938. It is crucial to have stable funding and a well-resourced coalition to support this essential work.

I care about Restorative Justice because:

- Restorative justice provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability. It allows the community to heal together as opposed to only the state.
- Oregon needs more approaches to harm that do not involve incarceration or conviction especially given how there is no indication that incarceration reduces crime.
- Restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm.
- There are strong benefits for everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community.
- Community-based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system.
- Developing community-based alternatives is important for addressing the unrepresented crisis.
- 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.
- In my role as a public defender, I have seen firsthand how restorative justice benefits not only my clients but also the broader community. It provides a pathway for them to make amends and re-integrate into society in a positive manner.
- Working in Public Defense work I have personally seen my clients succeed and making it much less likely they return .

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

Sincerely,

Ulises Medrano

