

Submitter: Clayton Jacobson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB 938

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

My name is Clayton Jacobson. For the last 10 years I worked various roles in prosecutor offices culminating in the last five years as a deputy district attorney in Multnomah County. I resigned this past November. I strongly support SB 938.

Based on my education, training, and experience, the criminal justice system creates additional harms while rarely mending any. Victims and survivors face re-traumatization. Defendants are saddled with collateral consequences that hinder rehabilitation. The criminal justice system revolves around the goal of addressing a broken law; Restorative practices revolve around the goal of healing humans.

Restorative practices embody the past, present, and future. The practices used today draw from ancient indigenous wisdoms on community. Restorative practices hold space for victims and survivors to seek resolutions not available in the criminal justice system. Those who have harmed others have a chance to learn about the rippling affects of their crime compared to a system which encourages them to deny involvement and the only evidence is of the crime itself, not the aftermath.

I know you have heard about restorative practices from those much more knowledgeable than I. But I wanted to include the above as through the eyes of a former prosecutor. As a prosecutor I always strove for reform and rehabilitation. I had heard of restorative justice examples, but always connected with a system program. It wasn't until this last year that I learned the broad applicability of restorative practices. Once I learned of a practical alternative to the criminal justice system the moral injury I had accrued working as a prosecutor caught up with me. I could no longer spend my energy trying to make the system better; I had to put my energy towards what I believe in. Some might argue that with my views I was never meant to be a prosecutor. That highlights a major issue, the lack of knowledge and understanding on restorative practices. I am currently attending Vermont Law online for a Master's in Restorative Justice.

Please grant these programs continued funding so that we can prove what research already shows, these practices heal. They heal the harmed, they heal the harmers, they

heal communities, families, reduce recidivism, and more. I encourage you to vote yes on SB 938 for the betterment of Oregon and all who live here.