



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Keith Wilson, Mayor

Robert Day, Chief of Police

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February 21, 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St NE, HR E
Salem, OR 97301

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

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 938. This legislation expands eligibility for restorative justice grants from the Criminal Justice Commission, allowing statewide coalitions promoting restorative justice to receive funding. It also continues the important financial support established by House Bill 2204 in 2021.

Traditional responses to crime often fail to meet the needs of both victims and offenders, leaving communities underserved. This is especially true for immigrant and refugee communities, which are less likely to report crimes due to distrust and lack of knowledge of our legal system, and for communities of color, which face disproportionate rates of gun violence, substance use, crime, and incarceration. With the support of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program, local municipalities have been able to offer a community-based alternative to the criminal and juvenile legal systems, prioritizing victims' needs and holding offenders accountable without relying on incarceration or conviction.

One example of this grant at work is the funding awarded to Lutheran Community Services Northwest, expanding restorative justice services in the City of Portland. These funds have enabled Portland police officers to receive training on referring eligible individuals to Lutheran Community Services Northwest for a restorative justice process as an alternative to the criminal legal system. Continued funding will strengthen efforts to enhance public safety while reducing recidivism rates in our community.

We urge your support on Senate Bill 938.

Sincerely,

ROBERT DAY
Chief of Police

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