

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Zahra Bandukwala and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I have lived in Oregon my entire life and have had the privilege of working in a restorative justice internship for the past year. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 938 because stable funding and a well-resourced coalition are imperative to advancing restorative justice in Oregon.

Traditional legal processes and incarceration often cause further damage both to harmed and responsible parties. In contrast, restorative justice promotes healing by focusing on repairing harm rather than on punitive measures. Research has proven restorative practices effective at reducing recidivism and fostering accountability. Additionally, restorative justice creates benefits for all involved parties, as well as the greater community at a fraction of the cost of the traditional legal and penal systems.

I care deeply about restorative justice and want to see it implemented more broadly across Oregon because it is research-backed, productive, and cost-effective.

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

Sincerely,

Zahra Bandukwala