

Submitted 3/24/25 online J. Behr



February 13, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs, Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jody Behr. I live in Hood River and have been volunteering as a community member in the **Circles of Peace** program at Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center here in the Columbia River Gorge. This program supports the communities on both sides of the Columbia in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties.

Please support (by passing) the Criminal Justice Commission budget with sufficient funding for the Restorative Justice Grant Program. Our communities need this critical funding to continue the restorative justice work we've initiated here.

The **Circles of Peace** restorative justice initiative is in its pilot year and is starting to support both victims and survivors of crime in our rural communities. There is more information about the program at <https://6rivers.org/circles-of-peace/>.

I work full time, own my own tiny business, and have been a participating member of this community for thirty years. Participation in this program over the last year has rejuvenated hope in me for the possibility of healing through our experiences, even violent crimes. The **Circles of Peace** program creates a place for victims to be heard and supported and know that they are not alone. As the community member in this program, I have witnessed significant growth by a teenage victim and perpetrator within a 4-month period which would not have been possible in the conventional criminal justice system or within their own insular support systems.

Working together as we do in the Circles of Peace program, we dismantle the fences that separate us and find common ground in our humanity. Continued funding will enable Six Rivers and other community-based programs across Oregon to sustain and expand this essential work—reducing crime, fostering accountability, and promoting healing for survivors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Jody Behr