

Submitter: Max Vogel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5005

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and members of the committee,

My name is Max Vogel and I am an attorney with the Metropolitan Public Defender. I am writing in support of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program and I am asking this committee to allocate \$8 million for the next biennium to this essential program. The CJC's Restorative Justice Grant Program provides critical funds for restorative justice programs across the state that center the needs of crime survivors and that keep the community safe by addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior, by fostering real accountability for those who have caused harm, and by meaningfully tending to the trauma crime survivors experience. It is important that this grant program remain funded and that it have stability in funding by being included in the Criminal Justice Commission's current service level budget.

Funding restorative justice is important because it promotes community, public safety, healing for survivors, and reduces recidivism for responsible parties. The current state of the criminal justice system is incredibly costly and is failing to deliver positive results to all parties. As a public defender, I see firsthand how the current system isolates defendants and gives them few, if any, opportunities to meaningfully engage with and grow from past mistakes; and how the current system gives survivors few opportunities for healing, little control over sentencing, and can retraumatize them through trial and litigation. Restorative justice is an incredibly valuable alternative that must be expanded.

I am requesting that you recognize the importance of these programs and the value they lend to Oregon's public safety system by allocating \$8 million to the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program and by including this grant program in the CJC's current service level budget. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please help Oregon maintain its place as a leader in restorative approaches to harm, by investing \$8 million in these healing and transformative programs.

Sincerely,  
Max Vogel