

Submitter: Peter Edwards

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5005

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Peter Edwards and I live in Medford, Oregon. I am an emerging school leader, a middle school educator, and a board member for the RESOLVE Center for Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice. I am writing to express my support of restorative justice and of SB 938. It is important to have stable funding and a well resourced coalition to support this important work.

I care about Restorative Justice because it provides victims and survivors with a valuable option for healing and accountability. Oregon needs more approaches to harm that do not involve incarceration or conviction. Restorative justice promotes community, public safety, and healing for survivors of harm. There are strong benefits to restorative justice for everyone involved: the survivor, the person responsible for the harm, and the broader community. Additionally, community-based alternatives to prosecution are dramatically less expensive than the current system and address the unrepresented crisis more effectively.

Restorative justice empowers people to acknowledge, take responsibility for, and work towards repairing the harm they caused. This leads to true accountability and reduced recidivism. I have seen the profound impact it can have on communities first-hand, as an RJ facilitator in Southern Oregon and as a public school educator in an RJ district.

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

Sincerely,
Peter C. Edwards