

Submitter: Eleanor Haney

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 Eleanor Haney and I am a second-year law student. I worked at the Metropolitan Public Defender in Portland, OR, last summer and am interested in returning to Oregon after I graduate. 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 initiative.

I have interned under Tristen Edwards this past year, and thus been able to see how important the CJC's Restorative Justice Grant Program is for the future of crime prevention, healing, and survivor-centered justice in the state. The program puts the needs of crime survivors at its core, and addresses underlying causes of criminal behavior. As someone who has lost loved ones to acts of illegality, I believe so strongly in the power of offering victims and survivors the agency and dignity to choose another option if they feel it is right for their healing process. I have also seen firsthand how these programs are immensely beneficial in the rehabilitation of parties who have caused harm. Restorative Justice is a powerful, effective approach to making our community stronger. As such, 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.

To date, the Oregon legislature has invested \$8 million to support fifteen restorative justice programs. Approximately half of these programs have received funding since the Restorative Justice Grant Program's first application cycle in July of 2022. The other half are new programs, which received planning grants for the beginning of 2025 to develop the concept for their pilot programs. These 15 programs span a significant portion of the state, serving 17 different counties with one program accepting cases from anywhere in the state. In 2024, the legislature invested \$4 million in the CJC's Restorative Grant Program for a one-year period, with the possibility of a three-month extension for established programs. \$2.7 million went to continue the seven established programs with \$1.3 million distributed to eight new programs seeking to expand access to restorative justice to other communities around the state. Based on these numbers, it is evident that an increased allocation is necessary to support the continued growth of the established programs and to provide an opportunity for the planning grant programs to move into their pilot stage. 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,
[INSERT NAME]