



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE**

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Human Services

April 3, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB 5005

By: Shannon Wight, Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice

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

For the record, I'm Shannon Wight, Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ). For over 25 years, PSJ has advocated for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both.

PSJ supports the Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) budget request and we have been a long-standing community-based partner of the agency. Our organization is particularly supportive of continued funding for the **Restorative Justice Program** and the *Justice Reinvestment Initiative* (JRI), including the **Justice Reinvestment Equity Program** (JREP).

Restorative Justice is a program deeply aligned with our organizational values in supporting survivors and people who have caused harm to create real accountability and healing. Advocates are requesting funding to continue support of these important programs, and we hope the Legislature will include such an appropriation in the CJC budget bill.

The original justice reinvestment was passed in 2013 to prevent the need to build a new prison. We helped advocate for the program's passage and to ensure that ten percent of all JRI funds go to community-based victim programs. PSJ has been active in supporting continued funding for this program and helping to ensure that the program meets its goals.

Important work has been done over time to ensure JRIs effectiveness for all populations. In 2017, PSJ worked with former Sen. Jackie Winters and Rep. Jennifer Williamson, as well as law enforcement and other partners, to ensure that investments were made to prevent the need for a second women's prison.

Such work continued in 2022 when PSJ and our partners in the Transforming Justice Coalition helped establish the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP). Established as a partnership between CJC and the NW Health Foundation, this program invested millions into programs tailored to serve historically underserved populations that had faced barriers in accessing JRI funds. These programs provide reentry, victim and survivor services, and prevention programs. The Governor's budget included \$10 million for the continuation of this program in the

2025-2027 biennium. **PSJ and our partners urge the Legislature to fund this important program at \$12 million to allow for additional communities to be served.**

We consider the CJC a valued partner in Oregon's criminal justice system and urge the Legislature to continue funding JREP, Restorative Justice and JRI along with the entire CJC budget.

Thank you for your consideration.