



PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY & JUSTICE

**Submitted to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**Testimony in Support of SB 5506
By Amy Davidson, Crime Survivor Program Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice**

Co-Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Amy Davidson, and I'm the Crime Survivor Program Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice. Partnership for Safety and Justice is a statewide, non-profit organization that advocates for public safety and criminal justice policies. For nearly 20 years, our work has advanced state and local solutions that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both.

On behalf of Partnership for Safety and Justice, I respectfully request your support of SB 5506, which would fund Justice Reinvestment at \$49.5 million for the 2019-2020 biennium.

JRI has also been a model for how Oregon and states across the country can update our approaches to public safety with local solutions that are more effective and efficient. Throughout our state, the approach has seeded a profound culture change that holds people appropriately accountable while also building local infrastructure so that justice-involved people have an actual pathway to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

As one former community corrections official has said, their office moved away from their "tail 'em, nail 'em, and jail 'em" mindset toward one where local law enforcement increasingly understands that we can't heal addiction with prisons. They understand the need to collaborate fully with partners, that there's value in keeping families together, and that effective community-based services are essential to people's successful transition home from prison.

Oregon's Justice Reinvestment program is also lauded on a national level. This past November, the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center - a national, nonprofit research organization - published a report that featured Oregon as one of only three states with model Justice Reinvestment programs that effectively maintain public safety while also serving as a model for shifting the national public safety landscape.

More personally, as someone with decades of experience in Oregon as a crime survivor advocate, I also want to speak to how essential Justice Reinvestment has been to the crime survivor community. Because 10% of Justice Reinvestment funding is allocated to victim services, survivors in all 36 counties have greater access to services that might not otherwise be available to them. And equally important, because of how the Justice Reinvestment program is structured, community-based crime survivor advocates have an actual seat at the table for how local public safety coordinating councils (or LPSCCs) respond to crime.

These are significant culture shifts that are only possible because of Oregon's Justice Reinvestment program. Since HB 3194 first passed nearly six years ago, it's set a new standard for public safety across the state -- one that finds value in building communities rather than prisons, that includes crime survivors at the center of the public safety conversation, and where accountability and rehabilitation are not mutually exclusive.

We urge your support for SB 5506.