

LOGO

DATE

The Honorable Tina McKinnor  
California State Capitol  
1021 O. St., 5521  
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Assembly Bill 2833 (McKinnor), Restorative Justice Integrity Act – (SUPPORT)

Dear Assemblymember McKinnor:

On behalf of **ORGANIZATION**, I am writing in strong support of Assembly Bill (AB) 2833, which will protect the integrity of Restorative Justice processes by providing comprehensive admissibility protections for statements made in the course of Restorative Justice processes. AB 2833 will encourage broader participation in Restorative Justice dialogues.

#### **A COUPLE SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION**

Survivors and victims of harm often do not feel their needs are met, or that they have a meaningful opportunity to be heard, in traditional criminal and juvenile legal processes. Only 14% of California survivors surveyed in 2019 reported feeling “very supported” by the criminal legal system after their experience of harm. Restorative Justice is a model that centers on the needs of people who have been harmed and is rooted in indigenous practices. It is a community-based, non-punitive process that provides victims/survivors and their loved ones the opportunity to ask questions, share about the impact of harm, and engage in dialogue with the person who caused them harm. Restorative Justice processes have resulted in higher rates of satisfaction for victims and survivors than going through the criminal legal system. Victims and survivors have also reported reduced feelings of fear, anger, post-traumatic stress symptoms, and depression after going through a Restorative Justice process.

Restorative Justice programs are effective tools for addressing conflict and harm within communities, an impact recognized this January 2024 in the results of a randomized control trial of San Francisco’s Make It Right program featured in peer-reviewed *Econometrical*. However, as noted in a recent R Street Institute policy paper, the ability of participants to speak freely without fear of repercussion is essential for the success of these processes. Currently, the absence of clear legal protections leaves individuals

hesitant to engage fully in Restorative Justice, undermining its potential for healing and restoration.

AB 2833 aims to remedy this situation by establishing comprehensive protections for all Restorative Justice processes in California to ensure that information shared in Restorative Justice processes is inadmissible in future legal proceedings.

For these reasons, we support AB 2833. Please contact me at **CONTACT INFO** for any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

**NAME**  
**TITLE**

CC:

Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee