

TESTIMONY BY MEGAN PRICE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 1393
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 | 9:00AM

Chairman Klemin and House Judiciary Committee Members. My name is Megan Price. I am providing testimony today in support of adding Restorative Justice to the list of sentencing alternatives for individuals who are convicted and sentenced for an offense. I am a clinical social worker who has worked in trauma and crisis for 7 years. Survivors of trauma process and heal in a number of ways, sometimes including confronting their offender. Restorative justice provides a safe and controlled environment for them to fulfill this need.

Almost 11 years ago, my older brother was killed in a drunk driving accident. He and a young woman both lost their lives while the other two in the car had severe injuries. Initially, I was filled with anger and sadness that I thought would never go away and I hated the man responsible. However, as time went on and we went through the criminal justice process, I found myself remembering that he was human. I wanted to know if he was sincere, if he knew what he had taken, and for him to know my brother's name. Through a list of incredibly helpful advocates, I found my way to the restorative justice process.

To give you the cliff note's version of this story- I met with someone from the program for months to decide whether this process would be appropriate for me and help me figure out what exactly I was hoping for from this meeting. By the time I finally got to the meeting, I was both terrified and excited. I was going to have an answer to all of my questions. I sat across

from this man for about two and a half hours discussing his and my life and how everything would look moving forward. He looked at pictures I brought, he asked thoughtful questions, he was very willing to answer my questions, and I can honestly say that by the time I left, I could feel his sincerity. While I can't promise you that everyone would have my experience, I found forgiveness and peace that I never would have elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.

Megan Price