



March 1, 2023

Members of the Joint Ways & Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5514, DOJ's Gun Violence budget requests – SUPPORT

Co-Chairs Sollman, Evans and Honorable Members of the Joint Ways & Means Public Safety Subcommittee:

I am writing on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in support of the Department of Justice's budget requests that directly support gun violence prevention efforts. Specifically, we urge your support for:

Package #305, to permanently staff three Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Program grant administrators at the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD).

- Last session, we advocated for lawmakers to support the state's first-ever statewide community violence intervention fund, and the legislature allocated \$15 million.
- In 2022, Portland had a record year of gun violence with more than 101 homicides — making it the worst year of gun violence since 1987. These numbers are unacceptable, and not limited to Portland. Suicides in Oregon are higher than the national average, especially in rural areas. There are only 11 Congressional districts nationwide with more than 100 gun suicides per year – and 2 are in Oregon.
- Community Violence Intervention Programs apply a public health model to ending gun violence by tackling the root causes of gun violence. There is already more demand than funding available, and the state's investment in this work must be continuous and sustained to make an impact.
- Please ensure CVSSD has the staffing it needs to administer these lifesaving programs. We'll also be advocating this session for a renewal of the \$15 million in grant funding in the biennial budget.

Package #258, to fund a resource prosecutor and a criminal investigator within the DOJ to support local law enforcement and prosecutors with their firearms-related work.

- These positions would give law enforcement the tools they need to ensure Oregon's extreme risk and background check laws are being effectively implemented.
- It's not enough to simply have laws on the books to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and those experiencing a mental health crisis - these tools must be effectively deployed. Extreme risk laws are proven ways to intervene before gun violence, such as gun suicide or mass shootings, takes more lives.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sumadi
Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action
450 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10163
ssumadi@everytown.org