

Submitter: Polly Furr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

I urge you to renew Oregon's \$15 million Community Violence Intervention fund, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, in the budget.

Last year, Oregon appropriated \$15 million to these services for the very first time, and we know there is already more demand than funding available. Funding is set to expire in 2024. If we want to reduce gun violence over the long term, we can't make a one-time investment; we have to make a sustained commitment to strategies we know work to reduce violence.

Grants support evidence-informed programs across the state of Oregon that address many different types of gun violence, from street-based outreach to reduce homicides in Multnomah County to veteran suicide prevention programs in Eastern and Southern Oregon.

It is very important to me that we address this issue fully and immediately, and I am fully committed to appropriating my tax money in support of these programs. The bottom of my stomach falls out every time I hear about another mass shooting, and clearly gun regulations alone can't completely address this multi-determined problem. I am so thankful that my daughter has achieved the age of 24 without having to have gun drills in her childhood schools, but I fear for my dear friends with school age children. I cannot countenance leaving children and families without resources to address these root causes of gun violence alone.

Thank you for supporting these live-saving programs in the state budget.

Polly Furr, Portland