

Submitter: Meghan Schiedel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

My name is Meghan Schiedel and I live in Springfield Oregon.

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.

As a mother of two young girls, I want a world in which they are safe and happy. This means supporting those in our community that are not. When everyone is safer, my family is safer, and we can be a more productive, happy society. I am also an educator, and I see so many in my classrooms and educational programs that would be impacted by cuts in this program.

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

Meghan Schiedel, Springfield OR