

Submitter: carrie wouda

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.

I urge you to approve this to support services for those impacted by gun violence. When the leading cause of death in children in the US is due to gun violence-we clearly have a problem that needs ongoing support due to the vast impact it has on so many families. Please do the right thing here.