

Submitter: Deborah Curtis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Please 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.

Unfortunately, too many guns are already out there, and available to too many. We need to find ways to keep these weapons from being used. In a world where so many people seem to have very short fuses, we need better strategies to resolve conflicts so they don't become deadly.

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

Sincerely,

Deborah Curtis