

Submitter: Eileen Sleva

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Sleva and I live in Hillsboro.

I urge you to renew Oregon's \$15 million Community Violence Intervention fund, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, already 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, but the programs funded by this grant must continue if we want to reduce gun violence over the long term. We cannot afford to make a one-time investment; we must make a sustained commitment to strategies we know work to reduce violence.

These 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.

Gun violence is not decreasing; every day another shooting occurs; more innocent people are killed. Funding programs that reduce the risk of violent behavior and gun violence is the right thing to do. Please vote to fund these valuable programs.