

Submitter: Megan Thornton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

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Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Megan and I live in Sherwood.

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.

Anything we can do as a society to protect our children and help them become good members of society is a must.

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

Megan Thornton, Sherwood