

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Sara Darland and I live in Tigard, OR.

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 must 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.

Every gun massacre in the US makes me increasingly afraid to live here, to be out in public, and to send my kids to school. I know programs funded by the Community Violence Intervention Fund help make our community safer by implementing programs aimed at stopping gun violence before it starts. Specially, programs aimed at "hear something, say something" and providing therapy to potential offenders is important to not only continue, but expand.

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

Sara Darland, Tigard OR