

Submitter: Elizabeth Klein
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Klein and I live in SW Portland.

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 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.

I worked my whole career as a family physician trying to improve mental health and depression screening in primary care. Gun violence is now the number one cause of death in our children. Black people die from gun violence at 2-3 times the rate of white people in Oregon. We must work to stop violence, especially for our black and brown youth. We need trauma-informed care for those most at risk of gun violence. Please renew Oregon's \$15 million Community Violence Intervention fund

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

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Klein
Portland Oregon