

Submitter: Christi Osborne
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Christi Osborne and I live in Lake Oswego.

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.

As parents, we have a growing concern about our teenagers and their mental health. I attended a Suicide Prevention lecture for LO School District last fall and the resources for Suicide Prevention are relevant and necessary in today's world. We want to continue the funding to this and many programs included in the Community Violence Intervention fund.

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

Christi Osborne, Lake Oswego