

Submitter: Elizabeth Dittman
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 Dittman and I have been a resident of Oregon since 1998. I have been a proud member of the community in Tualatin, where I reside with my partner and two children, ages 10 and 6 for 13 years.

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.

Community violence intervention programs, such as those funded by grants work to prevent gun violence before it happens. We know from programs across the country and from ones that are already funded across Oregon that these programs are working. They help end retaliatory gun violence and provide wrap-around services to those most at risk of committing gun violence, including domestic violence and gun suicide. As a parent, educator, and small business owner in our state, I see the need for and see the benefits of these services each day.

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

Elizabeth Dittman
Tualatin, Oregon