

**TRAVIS NELSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44  
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Testimony in Support for House Bill 3004**

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Travis Nelson, State Representative for House District 44, North and Northeast Portland. I am testifying in strong support of HB 3004 with the amendment. This bill builds on the important community-centered approach initiated by HB 4052 in 2022, which tasked the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office with shaping legislation that addresses the social determinants of health. HB 3004 follows that same model — recognizing that real solutions come from the ground up. That means listening to youth, families, frontline staff, and community service providers, especially in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence to identify what's working, where the gaps are, and how we can support sustainable, local solutions.

The Youth Development Division is already administering state funds and issuing grants to address community violence. But this bill isn't about creating something new. It's about making sure those investments are effective. That requires learning from and evaluating how school and community-based strategies can be funded and adapted by learning from other cities, counties, and Tribal Nations. An additional amendment will clarify that tribal consultations will serve as the means of communication with both tribal communities and tribal courts.

Youth violence exists on a continuum. For young children, prevention often means keeping them in school, supporting early literacy, engaging families and caregivers, and providing safe, enriching options after school and in the summer. For teens and young adults, it means mentorship, outreach, school engagement, and work readiness to help them avoid, or transition from, system involvement and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

But the first step, is identifying a handful of communities where our local systems such: school districts, law enforcement, juvenile justice, public safety, and community-based organizations are already working together. HB 3004 empowers the state to partner with them to build scalable plans rooted in real collaboration.

This work is not theoretical. It's deeply personal to all of our communities. In March of 2023, three young Black men — Babu Daudi, Eskender Tamra, and Patrick Johnson Jr. — were shot and killed in North Portland. They were my constituents. Their families will carry that grief forever, and so will the community that lost them. As a nurse, I've treated, seen and held the hands of people in the aftermath of violence. Community violence has devastating impacts, not just for the victim, but for everyone who loves them. Violence steals futures. It breaks families. And it floods emergency rooms with unnecessary heartbreak. When we invest in prevention and real community-led solutions, we save lives. We give people another chance. We can reduce future gang violence, trauma, arrests, and emergency room visits while increasing community safety across Oregon. And we can create a kind of safety that is built through real preventative solutions.

But we need to act — wisely, locally, and with intention. That is why I urge your support for HB 3004, because this supports that journey.

Thank you,

State Representative Travis Nelson  
House District 44, North/NE Portland