



March 31, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Seante Committee on Judiciary

Re: Senate Bill 1015 – Community Violence Funding, Support

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller. I'm Blackfeet and Cherokee and I serve as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund, a Native-led organization that builds political power and advances advocacy for Native communities in Oregon and Washington. I'm writing today to express strong support for Senate Bill 1015, which would fund the Oregon Department of Justice to fund Community Violence Intervention (CVI) efforts across the state.

At NAYA, we work directly with Native youth, families, and community members who are too often impacted by systemic violence, disinvestment, and neglect. Community violence, particularly gun violence, is a public health crisis. Its impact is deeply personal, long-lasting, and disproportionately impacts BIPOC, tribal, and low-income communities.

SB 1015 represents a thoughtful and strategic investment in community-based solutions. By directing funds to organizations and Tribal governments working on the frontlines – rather than law enforcement – it supports locally rooted, culturally grounded, and evidence-based responses to violence. These include peer mentorship, trauma-informed crisis intervention, conflict mediation, emergency housing, and wraparound services for individuals most at risk.

Programs like this work. They've been proven to reduce shootings, increase community safety, and break cycles of harm. But they're chronically underfunded. We are especially grateful that SB 1015 explicitly includes Tribal governments as eligible recipients. Native communities are often left out of public funding streams, despite facing elevated rates of violence and systemic barriers. This bill recognizes Tribal sovereignty and the importance of supporting Native-led approaches to public safety.

NAYA Action Fund urges your support of SB 1015 because it centers community leadership, promotes equity, and invests in healing. It's time to fund a future where all Oregonians, especially Native youth, can grow up safe, supported, and free from violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Miller
Executive Director