

4/8/2025

Testimony in support of bill SB 1015

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Guthman, the Policy Manager and Lead Lobbyist for APANO Communities United Fund, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1015, which would establish a grant program through the Oregon Department of Justice to support community-based violence prevention and intervention efforts in areas disproportionately impacted by violence.

As a statewide, grassroots organization grounded in the experiences of Oregon's Asian communities, APANO works to advance racial justice and community well-being. For many in our communities, public safety cannot be separated from trust, inclusion, and access to culturally responsive services.

SB 1015 represents an important shift in how we think about safety—moving away from punitive, one-size-fits-all solutions and toward investing in the very communities that are working every day to reduce violence and promote healing. Many of our partner organizations, especially those serving immigrants, youth, LGBTQ+ people, and BIPOC communities, are already doing this work. What they lack is sustained, flexible funding to expand and scale their impact.

By targeting resources to areas with high rates of community violence and prioritizing culturally specific, trauma-informed programming, this bill would empower grassroots leaders and trusted organizations to respond to community needs with proven, relationship-based strategies; prevent violence before it happens by investing in mentorship, mental health care, housing supports, and restorative justice; address root causes of violence such as poverty, racial discrimination, disconnection, and under-resourced schools.

We know that safety looks different in every neighborhood—and that local knowledge is key to designing effective responses. SB 1015 supports a model of safety that is collaborative, community-driven, and grounded in care.

For our communities, many of whom have experienced both interpersonal violence and systemic neglect, this bill offers a vital opportunity to heal, rebuild, and reclaim a sense of safety rooted in belonging. It also helps prevent criminalization by meeting people with resources, not punishment.



We urge your support for SB 1015 as a meaningful investment in community safety and racial justice across Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Guthman
Policy Manager
APANO