

Submitter: Zachary Hall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

I'm writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1015, which you're sponsoring in the 2025 session. This plan to have the Department of Justice hand out grants to community groups to "reduce community violence" sounds like a rehash of bad ideas we've already tried—and watched fail. Oregon doesn't need more feel-good experiments; we need results.

Look at Measure 110, the drug decriminalization flop from 2020. The idea was to give people a chance—treatment instead of jail. What'd we get? Overdose deaths spiked, addiction got worse, and public safety tanked. The state had to backtrack and recriminalize because the "soft touch" didn't work. Now SB 1015 wants to throw money at vague "violence prevention" programs run by non-profits and tribes, with no law enforcement involved? This is Measure 110 all over again—naive, unproven, and doomed to waste taxpayer cash while gun violence keeps climbing.

Your bill defines "community violence" as public firearm attacks by non-family members. Fine. But instead of funding untested intervention schemes—emergency housing, stipends, "capacity building," whatever that means—why not enforce the laws we've got? We tried giving people chances. It didn't stop the bleeding. Arresting and incarcerating those who shoot up our streets does. Lock them up, keep them off the streets, and the numbers drop. Period.

The oversight board idea—stacked with survivors and "experts"—just adds bureaucracy. More talk, less action. And prioritizing grants based on "likelihood of success" sounds noble, but who decides that? The same state that thought Measure 110 would save lives? I don't trust Salem to pick winners when their track record is a dumpster fire.

Oregon's high-violence communities don't need another social experiment. They need cops, courts, and consequences. SB 1015 is a step backward, and I urge you to scrap it. Focus on what works: arrest, prosecute, incarcerate. No more flops.