

April 8, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

FROM: Tom O'Connor and Paul Kemp, Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership

RE: SB 1015 Grant Program to Fund Community Violence Intervention

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

My name is Tom O'Connor. I am a life-long gun owner, native Oregonian and resident of Clackamas County. As one of the founding members of Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership, I want to register our strong support for SB 1015.

Our organization was formed in the aftermath of the 2012 Clackamas Town Center shooting where loved ones lives were taken in an instant. We are gun owners, outdoor enthusiasts, veterans and parents who seek reasonable and effective solutions to gun violence.

Over the last several years we have been partnering with community and hospital-based gun violence intervention groups. For example, we have helped provide safe storage information and thousands of free locking devices to local outreach organizations and community events around the state. The courageous folks working on the streets and with families in our communities do incredible work to interrupt the cycle of violence.

These volunteers and workers are usually part of grassroots organizations that have deep experience and knowledge of the local community and how to build trust and effectively intervene in conflicts to prevent escalation of gun violence. Building trust and maintaining a steady presence requires a stable source of funding that communities can count on.

SB 1015 provides that stable source of funding and oversight for this critical work that has been proven to reduce gun violence. Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership urges a do pass on SB 1015.

