

Submitter:

Chelsea Bearden

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1015

As a mother, I care deeply about the safety and well-being of all children — not just my own, but every child in our community. That's why I'm speaking out against SB 1015.

At first glance, this bill sounds like it's doing something good: offering grants to reduce community violence in high-risk areas. But when you look closer, it becomes clear that this isn't the kind of solution our communities truly need — or deserve.

SB 1015 places the power to define and address “community violence” into the hands of systems that have too often failed — or even harmed — the very people they claim to protect. It opens the door for funding to be funneled into punitive or carceral programs rather than real, community-based healing and prevention efforts. What our neighborhoods need are investments in mental health services, youth programs, education, housing, and trauma-informed care — not more surveillance, criminalization, or top-down control.

As a mom, I want my children to grow up in a world where the root causes of violence are addressed with compassion, not control. Where families are supported, not scrutinized. Where communities are trusted to lead their own healing — not handed “solutions” from the top that don't reflect their lived experiences.

SB 1015 doesn't empower communities — it bypasses them. It doesn't center families — it sidelines them. That's why I'm urging our lawmakers to reject this bill and work with communities directly to create safety that is just, equitable, and real.

Our kids deserve better than this.