

Submitter:

Dennis Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1015

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1015, which mandates the Department of Justice to establish a grant program aimed at reducing community violence through funding eligible entities such as community-based organizations and tribes.

Do you remember this: "Three years after Oregon became the first state in the country to decriminalize drug use - that's including drugs like methamphetamines and fentanyl - the experiment now appears to be dead. State lawmakers sent a bill last week to Oregon's governor that would once again make it a crime to possess small, personal-use amounts of drugs."

Let's don't make the same mistake twice. Instead, I urge you to redirect these funds to bolster mental health services, which would provide a far more effective and sustainable solution to the issue .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.