

Submitter: Dan Linscheid
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015
Honorable Committee Members:

I oppose subject SB 1015 with the following concerns:

1. The bill requires the Department of Justice to develop and implement a grant program, which may necessitate additional administrative resources and funding. Given Oregon's existing budget constraints, allocating funds to this program could divert resources from other critical public safety initiatives. It's essential to assess whether the anticipated benefits in violence reduction justify the financial investment and potential strain on state resources.?

2. The success of such grant programs heavily depends on the criteria for selecting eligible entities and the implementation strategies employed. Without clear guidelines and accountability measures, there's a risk that funds may not be utilized efficiently or may fail to reach the communities most in need. Ensuring that grants are awarded based on demonstrated effectiveness and that their impact is rigorously evaluated is crucial to avoid misallocation and ensure tangible improvements in community safety.?

3. While targeting areas with high rates of community violence is a strategic approach, there's a concern that the bill's provisions might inadvertently overlook certain communities or fail to address underlying systemic issues contributing to violence. Without comprehensive support services accompanying the funding, such as mental health resources, educational programs, and community engagement initiatives, the grant program's impact may be limited. A holistic approach is necessary to address the multifaceted nature of community violence effectively.?

In conclusion, while Senate Bill 1015 aims to tackle the pressing issue of community violence, careful consideration of its financial implications, the efficacy of grant distribution, and potential unintended consequences is essential. A thorough analysis and robust oversight mechanisms should be incorporated to ensure that the program achieves its objectives without compromising other vital public services.