

Submitter: Tracy Richardson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

We oppose the implementation of Senate Bill 1015 because it lacks accountability, excludes proven public safety actors, and fails to address root causes of violence.

There's Lack of Accountability and Oversight.

Senate Bill 1015 does not provide clear oversight mechanisms to ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds.

There is no structure in place to reclaim funding from programs that fail or misuse resources.

Without transparency and measurable outcomes, public trust and effectiveness is not there.

Law enforcement, the most direct and effective responder to community violence, is barred from applying for grants under this bill.

Public safety strategies should be data-driven, not ideologically exclusive.

Ignoring law enforcement undermines a collaborative approach to reducing violence.

There is no proven results from similar programs.

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs lack long-term empirical data to support their effectiveness.

Existing studies rely heavily on self-reporting or show correlation, not causation.

It is irresponsible to fund large-scale initiatives without a solid evidence base.

Opens the Door to Political Activism

Vague language in the bill allows funding for "capacity building" and "training," which can easily be used for political advocacy rather than direct violence reduction.

This could divert taxpayer money to activist groups without producing tangible safety outcomes.

Contention 5: The Bill is Too Broad and Poorly Defined

Lack of clear definitions allows for misuse of funds on superficial or symbolic projects.

"Violence prevention" is not concretely outlined, leaving room for ineffective programs with no measurable impact.

Ignores Root Causes of Violence.

The bill does not directly address organized crime, gang activity, or drug markets — the primary drivers of community violence.

Treating symptoms without addressing sources leads to temporary or ineffective solutions.

Omits Mental Health and Addiction Services

Violence prevention must include treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, both of which are deeply linked to violent behavior.

SB 1015 fails to mention or fund these critical areas.

Erodes Equal Protection Under the Law

By prioritizing funding based on perceived levels of violence, the bill risks creating inequality in public safety services.

Every Oregonian deserves equal protection and access to safety, not just those in politically defined “high-need” zones.

Conclusion: Senate Bill 1015 is well-intentioned but structurally flawed. It ignores data, lacks accountability, excludes key safety actors, and risks misuse of public funds. For these reasons, we strongly oppose its implementation.