

Submitter: Jim Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

This bill claims to create an oversight board, the entities receiving funds are explicitly not law enforcement, and the oversight board itself is not elected nor required to be impartial.

Taxpayer money should not be funneled into unaccountable, ideologically aligned nonprofits with no proven track record of reducing crime.

There's no clear mechanism in the bill to reclaim funds if programs fail or misuse money.

Excludes Law Enforcement from a "Public Safety" Bill

The bill bans law enforcement agencies from receiving grants- even though they are the ones with the training, resources, and mandate to protect public safety.

If the goal is to reduce community violence, excluding the most effective responders is ideologically driven, not data-driven.

No Proven Results From Similar Programs

Many "community violence intervention programs have little to no long-term data proving that they meaningfully reduce crime.

Studies that do exist often rely on self-reported outcomes or correlation, not causation - and typically ignore cities where these programs have failed.

Taxpayer Funds Going to Political Activism

The vague language in the bill opens the door for activist groups to receive funding under the guise of public safety - groups that may push agendas unrelated to actual violence prevention.

Too Broad and Poorly Defined

Terms like "evidence-informed" and "community safety" are undefined and subjective, allowing grant money to be used for a wide variety of loosely related programs.

Without firm definitions, millions in funding could be misused for feel-good projects with no measurable benefit to public safety.

Focuses on Symptoms, Ignores Root Causes

This bill ignores repeat violent offenders, organized gangs, and open-air drug markets that are key drivers of community violence.

Without coordination with law enforcement or accountability for criminal activity, this bill amounts to band-aid solutions with no enforcement mechanism.

Fails to Address Mental Health or Drug Addiction

Real solutions to community violence must include addressing mental health, substance abuse, and family breakdown.

This bill does not mention any of those root causes— instead focusing on vague,

grant-based programs likely to serve as temporary employment or PR campaigns.

Erosion of Equal Protection Under the Law

Prioritizing certain communities for funding based on perceived levels of violence opens the door for subjective and discriminatory practices.

Every Oregonian deserves access to safety —not just those who meet a politically defined threshold.