

Counter Talking Points: Senate Bill 1015 (Community Violence Grant Program)

1. Lack of Accountability and Oversight

- While the 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.

2. 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.

3. No Proven Results From Similar Programs

- Many "community violence intervention" (CVI) 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.

4. 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**.
- Funding “capacity building” and “training” can easily become a euphemism for **political advocacy**, not direct community safety outcomes.

5. 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.

6. Focuses on Symptoms, Ignores Root Causes

- This bill **ignores repeat violent offenders**, organized gangs, and open-air drug markets —**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**.

7. 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**.

8. 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.