

Submitter: Larry M. Gunter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

I oppose SB 1015, it is deeply problematic. First, it needlessly replicates efforts already in place, such as the violence prevention funding from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and Oregon Health Authority. This overlap squanders taxpayer money and muddies accountability with NO clear added value.

Second, the bill fosters unfairness by sidelining law enforcement, a critical safety partner, and focusing on loosely defined “high-violence” zones. This risks shortchanging rural communities like ours grappling with escalating crime, while funneling aid to better-connected urban groups, skewing resource distribution.

Third, the bill entertains with constitutional peril. Targeting funds to areas with “disproportionately high” violence lacks the precise justification demanded by the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause and Oregon’s Article I, Section 20. Without robust evidence tying aid to past discrimination—this invites lawsuits. Instead of piling on a redundant, unbalanced, and legally dubious program, Oregon should enhance existing systems.

I call on legislators to vote down SB 1015.

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