

Submitter:

Stewart Mers

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1015

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1015, which proposes the distribution of state funds to programs aimed at preventing violence. While the goal of reducing violence is one we all share, this bill takes an ineffective and unaccountable approach by allocating taxpayer dollars to loosely defined initiatives without clear metrics for success or long-term impact.

In a time when Oregonians are already concerned about rising crime and limited law enforcement resources, the state should prioritize enforcing the laws already on the books. We don't need to throw more money at the problem—we need real accountability, better prosecution of repeat offenders, and adequate support for the law enforcement agencies tasked with protecting our communities.

SB 1015 lacks the structure and oversight necessary to ensure that funds will be used in ways that actually reduce crime. Handing out grants or subsidies to various groups in the name of "violence prevention" without clearly defined outcomes is not only ineffective—it's fiscally irresponsible.

Rather than creating another layer of bureaucracy, our leaders should focus on reinforcing public safety by funding existing systems, supporting officers, and ensuring that our current laws are being applied consistently and effectively. That's how we make a real difference.

I urge you to oppose SB 1015 and instead commit to practical, proven solutions that uphold public safety and respect taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

Stewart Mers