

Submitter: Carol Manstrom
On Behalf Of: Victims and survivors of gun violence
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Carol Manstrom. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1015. I have lived in Eugene, Oregon for 35 years. I am retired from a 26 year career in law enforcement, as a Parole and Probation Officer in Oregon as well as a Deputy Probation Counselor for incarcerated youth in California. Currently, I am employed for an organization which serves Oregon youth who are homeless and in crisis. During my Parole and Probation Officer training, I completed many hours of firearms training. The title of this training was "Deadly Force Training." There is a reason that the word "Deadly" is used to describe this training; the reason is, guns are lethal! Tragically, over the years I have had several friends and colleagues who have died by firearm suicide. And, although it is emotionally devastating to think about and talk about, my precious teenage son, Will, died by firearm suicide when he was a Senior in high school, due to the negligence of a gun owner in a home setting. Currently, I am a volunteer mentor for several persons who have survived being shot during random incidents of street violence. And, currently, I am also an emotional support volunteer for family members and friends of persons who have died during gun tragedies. Every year, Oregon loses hundreds of lives to gun violence of all types! There is an intersection between guns and multiple human conditions including adolescent impulsivity, domestic violence, suicidal ideation, mental health crises, school shootings, murder-suicides, gang retaliation, street crimes, drug transactions, hate crimes and more. Gun violence is complex! And, gun violence is preventable! In Oregon there is a critical need for increased and sustainable funding for Community Violence Intervention purposes, to prioritize education, knowledge, awareness and evidence-based prevention methods. Senate Bill 1015 will save lives by meeting this critical need! As a retired law enforcement professional and a gun owner, I am respectfully requesting that you please pass Senate Bill 1015. Thank you. Carol Manstrom