

Submitter: Jimmy Ahrens
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

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 with 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.

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.

4. Taxpayer Funds Going to Political Activism

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 of dollars in funding could be misused for feel-good projects that have 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 the 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.

I strongly OPPOSE this bill and any bill that is an attack on our constitutional rights!