

ALLIANCE FOR A
SAFE OREGON.
ACTION

April 9, 2025

To: Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Senate Judiciary Committee Members

From: Jess Marks
Executive Director
Alliance for a Safe Oregon Action

Re: Support for SB1015

Dear Chair Proazanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to ask for your support of SB1015 and Community Violence Intervention.

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs address the root causes of gun violence through prevention and intervention. Led by organizations rooted in the communities they serve, CVI work focuses holistically on preventing violence before it occurs. CVI also directly interrupts cycles of violence, by establishing direct relationships with those who have been impacted by violence and helping support them to alternative pathways, reducing retaliation. Finally, CVI supports survivors - family members and friends who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

We know Community Violence Intervention works, but to have an impact at the scale needed to address the level of tragedy and loss in our state, we must sustainably fund this work.

There has been increased violent crime, especially involving gun violence, across the entire state. Firearm homicides across the state increased 138% between 2013 and 2023 (OHSU, 2025). Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by these tragedies. While Black men make up approximately 6% of the population of the Portland Metro area, nearly 50% of homicide victims are Black males - and 1/3 of those were under age 18.

To date, the State has twice invested one time funding in CVI efforts, which is beginning to make an impact. Both Portland and Salem have begun to see declines in homicides and shootings. To make real change and prevent future cycles of violence, the state must invest in long-term, sustainable funding for this work. By investing in this work now, the legislature can prevent devastating consequences for families across our state, and build a brighter future for all of us.

I urge you to pass SB1015.