

Submitter: Alisha Overstreet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

My name is Alisha Overstreet. I write to testify in cautious opposition to SB1015.

Generally, I strongly support Community Violence Intervention programs and in theory, I would support the current endeavor as well were it not for the underlying support provided by groups such as Moms Demand Action and John's Hopkins' Center for Gun Violence Solutions. These entities have clear mandates: 1) Firearms bans, and 2) Blame firearms for all the violence caused in black communities. My concerns with this bill are not that it suggests supporting CVI programs with grant money, but that the oversight body will likely be filled with representatives from special interest groups who proclaim to have the best in mind for black folks in Oregon but clearly only want us to behave in a specific, pre-approved way that EXCLUDES our rich traditions and history of arms going back to before the founding of this country.

We must remember and learn about historic figures such as Deacons for Defence and Justice, Black farmers in the Jim Crow south who defended their property with firearms, and Black men (and women) living in black suburban neighborhoods during the Jim Crow era who protected their properties and neighborhoods from white supremacists and other ill-doers.

Stop white-washing black firearm traditions and history.