

Submitter: Barbara Dallas  
On Behalf Of: Moms Demand Action  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Public Safety  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

I am a member of Moms Demand Action, writing today in support of funding for Senate Bill 1015.

I am a retired medical social worker and Happy Valley resident. I worked at a trauma center in the SF Bay Area for over 30 years. During that time, I was a founding member of a program called Beyond Violence, which was implemented to intervene with hospitalized victims of intentional violence. The program was modeled after other similar programs nationwide.

Identified patients were referred to an Intervention Specialist from their community. The Intervention Specialist supported the injured patient and their family and friends in coping with the injury, and assisted the patient with follow-up care, connecting them to community resources to promote healthy choices and avoid street violence.

This Community Violence Prevention model has been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism and retaliation in other metropolitan areas such as Oakland, Chicago and Boston. Beyond Violence was modeled after Oakland's "Caught in the Crossfire Program," which has been successful in transitioning trauma patients from the hospital to the community.

Since its inception, the program has achieved significant success with 98% of people participating remaining alive, avoiding arrest and avoiding re-injury after initially being hospitalized as a trauma patient.

Community Violence Prevention Programs seek to interrupt the cycle of violence. The goal is to reduce the total number of people injured by interpersonal violence, reduce re-entry of people into criminal justice systems, and link people with local resources that help them live non-violent lifestyles. I urge all legislators to pass this bill, which will permanently fund programs that are critical to reducing violence in our communities.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Barbara Dallas, Retired Medical Social Worker