

Submitter: Elizabeth Klein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5014

I request that you prioritize violence prevention funding in the 2025- 2026 Oregon Budget. Community Violence Intervention is researched based. Baltimore, Chicago and Oakland have reduced homicides and shootings by 20-30% using Community Violence Interventions. Gun Violence is the #1 cause of death of children in United States. Gun violence in the USA is a public health threat to each one of us. Gun violence is preventable and not inevitable.

I request your assistance in decreasing gun violence. We must act and advocate for safer communities through community-based violence intervention programs. We must act now, like our lives depend on it, because our children's lives really do depend on it. Community Violence Prevention programs work directly with families and neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence, providing street level community outreach and conflict mediation, job training, trauma, and mental health support and more. I urge you to maintain community violence intervention grant funding for community-based organizations in the upcoming budget. Oregon needs to stay the course on prevention in order to reduce gun violence. The safety of our communities depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Klein SW Portland and Deacon at Grace Memorial in NE Portland