

March 20, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Olsen, Senator Dembrow, Senator Kruse, Senator Monnes Anderson
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 140 – Funding for Gang Intervention Services in Multnomah County

Dear Chair Gelser and Committee Members:

I am a long-time neighborhood leader in the City of Gresham, and I know how important the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET) is to the safety our community, especially as gang activity has migrated more and more to East Multnomah County. EMGET brings together resources and coordinates efforts from the Cities of Gresham and Fairview, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department (covering the Cities of Wood Village and Troutdale) and Multnomah County's District Attorney's Office to more effectively – both in results and costs – address gang violence and gang-related crimes, like human trafficking, major theft, etc.

Every year, we are so appreciative of the state's support of this critical gang enforcement team, which is a key part of a larger collaborative effort among local governments, non-profits and the community to address the root causes of gangs and keep our youth out of gangs. Your continued support of EMGET is still necessary, especially with the limited tax base we have in East Multnomah County and the continuing eastward movement of families most at-risk of losing their children to gangs or being victims of gangs.

Please support SB 140.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Rulla
5162 SE 28th Dr.
Gresham, OR 97080