



Date: February 7, 2022  
To: House Health Care Committee  
From: Stephanie Phillips, Policy Analysts for the Urban League of Portland  
Re: OHA Community Violence Prevention Grants 2022, HB 4045

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Salinas, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Phillips, and I am a Policy Analyst with the Urban League of Portland and I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 4045. The Urban League of Portland is one of Oregon's oldest civil rights and social service organizations, empowering African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life. We do this by investing in stable housing; through workforce development; community health; education and well-being; for our youth, adults, and seniors. Our culturally specific programs and services, combined with our powerful advocacy and civic engagement, empowers Black communities to thrive across Oregon and SW Washington.

Oregon has experienced a surge in gun violence, theft, and robbery in the last few years. Particularly in 2021, gun violence was at its highest, 92 deaths in Portland alone. 51 of those deaths were people of color, with 35 being Black people. Communities across Oregon, especially in the metropolitan area, are suffering due to violence; violence that is entirely preventable. Communities of color feel the burden of this violence the most, where we are struggling with housing instability, financial stability, community programs, youth programs, resources, drug and alcohol addictions, educational support, and employment options and resources all of which has been exacerbated by this global pandemic which has disproportionately hit our communities.

HB 4045 allows the Oregon Health Authority to provide grants to organizations for community violence prevention and intervention measures to alleviate risk factors that can lead to violence. Protective factors will be established for communities in the form of services related to substance abuse and alcohol misuse, legal services, educational achievement, conflict resolution, parent education, employment services, youth and gang intervention, housing stability, and street outreach and norm change. By funding these services, communities will have resources to redirect activity away from violence. This is crucial to communities of color that have been underfunded, under-supported, displaced, and disenfranchised.

With HB 4045, the Oregon Health Authority can also grant funds to organizations that provide hospital-based violence intervention programs and/or community violence prevention services. Hospital-based violence intervention programs approach care differently than traditional models of care. These programs can provide wrap-around services to violently injured patients by addressing psychological trauma while accounting for risk factors for violence and social determinants of health. For communities of color, this approach can be lifesaving and change current and future outcomes. Communities of color have a well-earned distrust in government and health systems due to past and present practices, passing HB 4045 will show these communities Oregon values their health and community. And establishing programs centered around preventing risk factors that can lead to violence will uplift all communities across Oregon, not just communities of color.



**Urban League**  
of Portland

*Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.*

Please pass HB 4045 to ensure that we continue to invest in our communities. Oregonians are trusting you to see the value in their communities, especially the communities of color across Oregon.

Respectfully,

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