

To: Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Hayden, Vice Chair Salinas, Members of the House Committee on Health Care

RE: House Bill 4045 – Support

Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Hayden, Vice Chair Salinas, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller, I am Blackfeet and Cherokee and I serve as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund located in Portland, OR. Founded by the community, for the community, NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community. The NAYA Action Fund provides tools to shape public policy, cultivate leadership, and elect champions for issues impacting Native people. Our vision of systemic change is youth centered, family driven, and elder guided.

I write in support of House Bill 4045, which will allow 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. The American Indian/Alaska Native community continues to be disproportionately impacted by acts of violence, particularly gun violence. Our sister organization, the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) has worked diligently to build programs and services working to support community members through the prevention and intervention of violence and violent related crimes. Our communities continue to see a rise in violent crimes, specifically gun related crimes. HB 4045 would allow organizations and community partners like ours to advance, disrupt, and increase support in preventing community related violence.

The State of Oregon must act swiftly to curb the growing issues of community violence, and work directly with community based partners, organizations, and coalitions on the ground actively working to prevent such issues. Additional investments from the legislature would allow more staff to be hired and reach more folks in our community. Our communities deserve to feel safe and protected. It's with our community in mind that the NAYA Action Fund urges the passage of House Bill 4045 and we commit to supporting, uplifting, and guiding this work.

Thank you,



William Miller  
Executive Director