

Submitter: Joe Walsh

On Behalf Of: City of Gresham

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

To the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

For the past decade, the City of Gresham has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with the Youth Development Division (YDD), which has provided funding and technical assistance for our youth gang prevention and intervention efforts since 2014. Last year, our city received additional funding for the East Metro Outreach, Prevention and Intervention program, again with assistance from YDD. This funding has been a game-changer for our community, which has long needed a "right-sized" solution for problems related to youth gangs and violence. In its first year, this program has served more than 1,000 high-risk youth with a variety of resources and services ranging from food assistance to housing relocation in order to ensure the well-being and safety of our youth and families in need. At the heart of this program is enhanced coordination between law enforcement, social services, and community-based organizations. Again, the funding and staff support of YDD has been instrumental in turning this dream of a safer community into a reality. We applaud this subcommittee for allocating these critical funds to the Youth Development Division and appreciate the impact that is being made throughout the state through these critical services.

Sincerely,

Joe Walsh

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

City of Gresham