

Submitter: Tamara Schoen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Tamara Schoen and I live in West Linn.

I urge you to renew Oregon's \$15 million Community Violence Intervention fund, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, in the budget.

Last year, Oregon appropriated \$15 million to these services for the very first time, and we know there is already more demand than funding available. Funding is set to expire in 2024. If we want to reduce gun violence over the long term, we can't make a one-time investment; we have to make a sustained commitment to strategies we know work to reduce violence.

Grants support evidence-informed programs across the state of Oregon that address many different types of gun violence, from street-based outreach to reduce homicides in Multnomah County to veteran suicide prevention programs in Eastern and Southern Oregon.

[Add a couple of sentences about your connection to this issue - remember, lots of programs are covered under this funding stream - suicide prevention and crisis intervention services, violence interruption & street outreach for group-related homicides and shootings, youth employment and job training programs, trauma-informed therapy for those most at risk of gun violence, etc. Feel free to mix in a couple of the talking points below!]

Thank you for supporting these live-saving programs in the state budget.

Tamara Schoen, West Linn