

Submitter: Tiffany Mathes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Tiffany Mathes and I live in Portland.

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.

As a high school teacher who sees every day the needs that exist for our young people in Oregon, I can assure you that now is not the time to let these funds expire. We will need this support in the coming years. Additionally, as someone who has dealt with the loss of two loved ones to self-inflicted gun violence, I know personally how saving even one life will mean the world to so many.

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

Tiffany Mathes, Portland