

Submitter: Saskia Hostetler Lippy
On Behalf Of: Moms Demand Action
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Saskia Hostetler Lippy and I live in Multnomah County. I am a psychiatrist and a mental health activist. I am a member of Moms Demand Action.

I am writing to 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. This funding is set to expire in 2024. If we want to reduce gun violence over the long term, we simply cannot make this 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 mental health activist I myself was almost the victim of gun violence last year. I saw first hand the trauma that resulted from the mass shooting at Normandale Park in the grief circle I facilitated for the direct witnesses. I urge you to fund this measure as these funds provide a whole host of prevention measures our society so desperately needs more of. These include: suicide prevention and crisis intervention services, violence interruption and street outreach for group-related homicides and shootings, youth employment and job training programs, as well as trauma-informed therapy for those most at risk of gun violence. I was very fortunate to have my life saved by the coincidence of a Portland Police patrol driving by me while the man pointing a ghost gun at me attempted to kill me. Next time I know I won't be so lucky. These programs save lives. Let's prevent more violence together. This is how we heal. This is how we change our epidemic of gun violence.

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

Saskia Hostetler Lippy MD, Portland, Oregon