

Submitter: Sally Bell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Sally Bell and I live in Eugene. I am a concerned citizen which young children, who is very concerned about the escalation in gun violence in our community.

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.

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

Sally Bell, Lane County