

Submitter: Cicely Thrasher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Cicely Thrasher and I live in Northeast 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.

The epidemic of gun violence needs to be addressed with a wholistic approach. Sustained funding for programs that can prevent tragedies before they happen is a key component of a comprehensive plan to stem the tide of gun violence.

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

Cicely Thrasher, Portland, OR