

Submitter: Tony Bush
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1015

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1015, which proposes the establishment of a grant program to study "gun violence" in Oregon. While I support any effort to make our communities safer, this bill, as currently written and pushed through the legislative process, raises serious concerns about fairness, fiscal responsibility, and the targeting of law-abiding gun owners.

First and foremost, the State of Oregon is already facing significant financial strain due to ongoing legal battles against responsible gun ownership. Adding further expenditures for studies that are likely to be biased or selectively applied only worsens the problem. The truth is, a firearm—like a car, a spoon, or a pen—is an inanimate object. Without human intent, it cannot act. We know from decades of experience and data that the root of most gun-related violence is not lawful ownership but criminal behavior, often associated with organized crime and gang activity.

There are already thousands of laws on the books meant to address illegal gun use. Yet, instead of enforcing these laws and holding repeat offenders accountable, we often see policies that release individuals on low or no bail, or allow violent protesters to walk free without consequences. This sends a message that criminal behavior has little consequence, while law-abiding citizens are scrutinized and penalized.

The recent conduct of this legislative session only deepens my concern. When hundreds of Oregonians submit written testimony in opposition to a bill and fewer than ten support it—but it still advances—it is clear that the will of the people is being ignored. This undermines public trust and suggests that the proposed grant program could and will be used selectively—ultimately to build a case against legal gun owners rather than target actual sources of violence.

We must focus on what unites us. Around 70% of Oregonians can agree on the need to fix our roads and bridges, address homelessness, and invest in our children—especially those in under-resourced urban areas. We should be telling them that they are good enough, that success is possible, and not limiting their potential through narratives of defeat based on race or background.

In closing, I urge you to vote no on SB 1015. Let's direct our state's limited resources to efforts that unite us and deliver measurable outcomes—while protecting the

constitutional rights of Oregonians who have always acted responsibly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tony Bush
Clackamas county Or