

Submitter: Ryan Reusser
On Behalf Of: Dads Helping Dads
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I was unable to testify yesterday because of the amount of people requesting in the time allowed so here is my unedited testimony prepared for yesterday.

Good afternoon and thank you all for having me.

My name is Ryan Reusser the executive director of dads helping dads.

I am here today with a few others for a request of a \$2 million emergency fund allocation. This initiative is designed to provide immediate and compassionate relief to families in Multnomah County who are enduring the trauma and grief caused by acts of violence resulting in death.

In the past 60 days, Multnomah County has already recorded 29 homicides, continuing a devastating trend of community violence that has persisted in recent years. Each life lost represents a family in mourning, a community destabilized, and a void left in our neighborhoods. 650 Oregonians die each year, and our gun death rate has gone up 40% in the past decade.

The documented minimum cost of a homicide is 10 times the cost of proven prevention costs so this will be a huge opportunity to invest in our most vulnerable community members with a huge return on financial investment and even bigger return on public safety outcomes in the communities we all live in leading to future budget surplus. We have all data or any information you all may need so please reach out with any question or concerns regarding this emergency declaration.

We all know about the situation and how crucial it is to fix this immediately so I will cut this short to give other time to speak and just leave with the ask to please allocate for this emergency fund to save the families in our community.

Thank you for your time.