



PRESS RELEASE

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Prioritizing Community Safety, Oregon Legislature Votes to Invest in Violence Prevention Programs and Restitution for Victims

SALEM, Ore. - Today, Oregon House Democrats passed [House Bill 4045 A](#), which will fund grant programs for community safety and violence prevention and intervention services, alleviating risk factors that can lead to violence.

House Democrats also passed [House Bill 4075 A](#), which will make it easier for victims of crime, including small businesses, to seek restitution and be repaid for economic damages.

“These two bills are about lowering crime through proven, community-based solutions,” said [Representative Jason Kropf](#) (D-Bend), chief sponsor of House Bill 4075 A. “This is especially important for people who have been harmed and small businesses who seek repayment for damages caused by burglaries, for example.”

House Bill 4075 A modifies procedures for the district attorney to present restitution evidence and establishes that economic damages will be presumed reasonable if the damages are documented as specified.

“As we aspire to a more restorative justice system, restitution can be a foundational piece of a system that helps people understand the harm caused, make amends, heal and move forward from the events of a crime,” said Kropf.

“As a nurse practitioner, I know how violence impacts our communities, triggering PTSD, mental health crises, and long-term health problems,” said [Representative Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn). “By investing in community violence prevention programs, we’re making an investment in healthy communities and fostering safe neighborhoods that will attract more small businesses, create better schools, and lead to a thriving environment for working families throughout the state.”

“One of my top priorities is public safety, and this builds off of the work we’ve done to invest in gun violence prevention programs last session,” said [Representative Ricki Ruiz](#) (D-Gresham). “This is a proven, human-centered solution that will help local community

organizations, partners, and coalitions who know their communities best address and curb the rising violence we're seeing across the state."

HB 4045 A will direct the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to distribute funding to nonprofit organizations to provide grants to organizations for community violence prevention and intervention services. The legislation will provide long-term stable funding to this work, professionalizing and certifying community member specialists. The state will also seek Medicaid reimbursement for the program, harnessing considerable federal matching dollars to aid victims and curb community violence.

"We need to invest in evidence-based techniques to keep communities safe and help people heal by addressing the issues that cause violent retaliation and community insecurity in the first place," said [Representative Travis Nelson](#) (D-Portland). "House Bill 4045 provides an opportunity to do just that. It invests in an evidence-based intervention to interrupt this cycle of violence."

House Bill 4045 A passed 57-1 and House Bill 4075 A passed 58-0. Both bills head to the Senate for consideration.

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