

Senate Finance Committee
Proponent Testimony HB33-SC1901
Submitted by: Pat Krummrch
May 26, 2023

To Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB33-SC1901, an amendment to fund the Community Peace Builders' Network, a community violence intervention (CVI) local development project in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. This funding will enable Cincinnati communities most impacted by gun violence to develop and implement evidence-based, public health strategies to substantially reduce gun violence.

I'm here to speak as an interested resident and voter in the Greater Cincinnati area. My husband and I, longtime conservative voters, recently moved to the West Chester area from the Akron/Canton area where we had lived for 25 years. We decided to retire in Cincinnati to be near our surviving adult daughter who lives in Hamilton County and works for a major corporation. We are loving the vibrancy of our new city but we are very concerned about gun violence in Cincinnati. In 2021, Cincinnati had the 11th highest gun homicide rate of America's cities. [1]

I do not pretend to be an expert on community violence in the city of Cincinnati nor some of the details of this program. There are members of the Community Peace Builders' Network here will provide that information to you. I simply want to give you my point of view as a voter of the Cincinnati suburb, West Chester Twp.

I support this amendment to the Ohio Budget for several reasons:

1. The proposed funding for the Community Peace Builder's network would treat Gun violence as the public health epidemic that it is. Gun deaths are now the leading cause of death for Ohio's children and teens. Reliable polling shows that Ohio voters are highly upset about gun violence and they want their legislators to "Do Something" to make our cities and communities safer. In my career as a health care provider at Akron Children's hospital, I treated children and teens who had been shot.

2. Since moving here, I've discovered that there is tremendous positive, caring energy in the communities of Cincinnati. Many of the wonderful community non-profit efforts that I've already found rely on mainly volunteer efforts to create a generalized environment of opportunity and mentoring to improve safety. These are terrific, inspiring programs. But the Community Peace Builders' Network, as I understand it, offers something different; another approach to reducing gun violence. It targets the surprisingly small number of people in the city that are responsible for the largest number of homicides or gun crimes (Studies show that as few as 1% of the individuals in a community are actually responsible for committing most of the violence [1], therefore many law enforcement strategies aimed at saturating whole communities are ineffective). Paid staff members work intensively to bring the individuals to a different path. In a health epidemic, if there is a small group of people who are largely responsible for spreading a disease, you target your resources on those individuals to stop contagion and you provide funded staff and medicines to do it in an impactful, sustainable way.
3. This program is evidence based. It has been well researched and designed by long time Cincinnati community activists. As a published medical researcher, myself, I believe in seeing the evidence before making such an investment.
4. This program appears to be a sound financial investment for the State of Ohio and for the city of Cincinnati. If results of the program are similar to results in other cities, the dollars saved would be far greater than the cost.
5. Finally, I support this program because, as a bereaved mother, having lost my older daughter when she was 15, I cannot stand by and watch other families go through the same tragedy without trying to help. I believe this is what my daughter and my God would want me to do. I urge you to consider a loved one that you have lost, through whatever cause, and consider whether you are willing to help

save someone else in memory of your loved one or perhaps in fulfillment of your faith.

Please vote yes on HB33-SC1901 and include the funding for Cincinnati's Community Peace Builders' Network in our budget.

Respectfully,
Pat Krummrich

1. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/city-data/#compare-gun-homicide-across-cities>
2. Esbensen, F., & Huizinga, D. (1991). Victimization and delinquency. *Youth and Society*, 23(2), 202–228; Tolan, P. H., & Gorman-Smith, D. (1998). Development of serious, violent and chronic offenders. In R. Loeber & D. Farrington (Eds.), *Never too early, never too late: Serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders* (pp. 65–68). Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications; Tracy, P. E., & Kempf-Leonard, K. (1996). *Continuity and discontinuity in criminal careers*. New York: Plenum Press.