



May 15, 2019



Letter of Support for HB 2013

Chair Prozanski and other Distinguished Members of the Senate Judicial Committee:

Lift Every Voice Oregon (LEVO) and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) have been working through this session to promote legislation to reduce gun violence. The bill before you, HB 2013, is an essential step toward enforcement of previous legislation that prohibited access to firearms by those who have committed acts such as stalking, intimidating, molesting and menacing. The prior law was intended to provide protection to children, family members and others, but neglected to provide essential and detailed instructions to ensure that firearms currently possessed would be relinquished promptly. The language is remarkably clear in setting forth both the options and the mandatory obligations of the courts, law enforcement and individuals, who are subject to an order to relinquish their weapons. We urge the prompt approval of this legislation out of Committee and to the Senate floor for passage.

There is another bill in this session, however, which provides other important protections: SB 978. Lawmakers and citizens worked thousands of hours to construct its concepts for straightforward safety measures. We wish SB 978 was being moved to the floor for a vote today. And, there are more protective actions, such as reducing proliferation of large-capacity magazines and military-style weapons, that we believe legislators should be considering.

In an effort to show the broad support for ending this egregious violence, we present today a letter signed by over 150 faith leaders from many parts of Oregon. We would still be adding signatures if we had had more time, but we are delivering the letter to you today, in light of this important vote.

Our role is to lift a moral voice. Youth have cried out for an end to gun violence; in some recent cases, youth have even felt compelled to sacrifice their lives to save their classmates. We as adults must do more to protect them. As faith leaders from Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and other traditions, we ask that you commit to passing HB 2013 and other gun safety legislation with all deliberate speed.

Blessings to each of you,

Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson,

Sr. Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church,
LEVO Chair

Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana,

Congregation Beth Israel,
LEVO Director

Jan Musgrove Elfers

President, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Rev. Linda Jaramillo

Board Chair, Ecumenical Ministries of
Oregon



TO: Governor Kate Brown and Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives
FR: 155 Oregon Faith Leaders
DA: May 15, 2019
RE: Support for Gun Violence Prevention

To Our Leaders in Salem:

We are faith leaders from across Oregon and from diverse religious backgrounds. We are united in our witness: the call to make our state safe from gun violence.

Gun violence on the level we face is a public health crisis, and a uniquely American problem. Whether from suicide, murder, or accidents, guns take too many lives.

Gun violence prevention is painfully relevant to our work. Our religious communities are places people turn to when troubled. Those of us who are chaplains attend to the trauma caused by gun violence. As clergy, we preside over funerals for those lost too soon. And too often lately, houses of worship have become targets for attacks.

Gun deaths are often preventable. As leaders, we are called to make our communities safer for future generations by reducing the threat of gun violence. Our children and grandchildren should not have to take time away from learning to practice hiding from attackers in “active-shooter drills.” We can do better. They deserve better. Enough is enough.

We support the measures in two bills currently being considered by the Oregon Legislature:

- SB 978 requires common sense safety practices, such as maintaining safe storage of weapons and reporting of weapons that are lost or stolen. It allows public entities to regulate the possession of firearms in public buildings. It restricts the manufacture of untraceable guns. It allows research into gun violence. And it allows stores and dealers to adopt minimum age requirements for their customers, placing safety as their priority.
- HB 2013 provides essential amendments to existing protections, which ensure enforcement when people who have committed menacing acts are required to relinquish their firearms and ammunition. This is a reasonable measure to promote safety and reduce the abuse of firearms, which too often results in injury and death.

We encourage the lawmakers in both Chambers to support the passage of these practical and necessary safety measures. These two bills are critical and must be passed this Legislative Session, because there is more work to be done. We urge you, as our legislative leaders, to consider other steps to reduce gun violence, such as limiting access to assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

Our common goal is to reduce the trauma, injuries, and deaths caused by gun violence. We must reach across party lines and religious differences, in every part of our state, to work together and move forward. There are many ways to work toward a safer future, and we each have a role to play.

In the debate about gun laws, there is too often a spirit of fear. But fear leads to roadblocks instead of solutions. Fear sows mistrust and turns us against our neighbors. As people of faith, we instead yearn for dialogue rooted in respect and safe communities blossoming with hope. We encourage you to take a courageous stand and move forward, knowing we stand with you.

We thank you for your leadership in helping pass laws that make Oregon safer from gun violence. We will pray for your health and safety, however you vote. We are grateful for your partnership in working for a safe and healthy Oregon for future generations.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson III
Augustana Lutheran Church
Lift Every Voice Oregon Chair

Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana
Congregation Beth Israel
Lift Every Voice Oregon Director

Rev. Alcena Boozer
St. Phillip the Deacon, Pastor Emerita
Lift Every Voice Oregon Director

Imam Muhammad A. Najieb
Muslim Community Center of Portland
Lift Every Voice Oregon Director

Rev. Lynne Smouse López
Ainsworth United Church of Christ
Lift Every Voice Oregon Director

Rev. Linda Jaramillo
Board Chair, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee
Pastor, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church
Past Board Chair, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Jan Musgrove Elfers
President, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Dr. Howard Kenyon
Vice President, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Rev. Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey
Criminal Justice Ministries Manager, Ecumenical
Ministries of Oregon

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director, Ecumenical Ministries of
Oregon

Signatories Statewide (organizational affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

Rev. Barbara Nixon	First United Methodist Church of Corvallis	Albany
Rev. Leslie Chartier	Unitarian Universalist Church	Albany
Mr. Dean Sigler	First Congregational United Church of Christ of Portland	Aloha
Rev. Paula Anema Sohl	First Ashland Congregational United Church of Christ	Ashland
Rev. Dr. Eileen Dunn		Ashland
Chaplain Jean Semrau	Asante Hospice	Ashland
Rev. Meredith Ayer Pech	Trinity Episcopal Church	Ashland
Rabbi Jacqueline Brodsky	South Coast. Jewish Community	Ashland
Rabbi Sue Mauer Morningstar	Havurah Shir Hadash	Ashland
The Very Rev'd Anthony Hutchinson, SCP, Ph.D.	Trinity Episcopal Church	Ashland
Rabbi Julie Benioff	Temple Emek Shalom	Ashland
Rev. Christina G. Kukuk	United Church of Christ	Ashland
Rabbi David Zaslow	Havurah Shir Hadash Synagogue	Ashland
Rev. Sean Parker Dennison	Rogue Valley UU Fellowship	Ashland
Rosanna Ferraro-Jensen	Hospice Chaplain	Ashland
Carol Fellows, MD		Ashland
Rev. Richenda Fairhurst	Ashland United Methodist Church	Ashland
Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson	Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA	Ashland
Herbert Rothschild, Clerk, Peace & Social Concerns Committee	South Mountain Friends Meeting	Ashland
Rev. Kit Ketcham	Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	Astoria
Pastor Jennifer Seach	Beavercreek United Church of Christ	Beavercreek
Sahar Bassyouni	Muslim Educational Trust	Beaverton
Rev. David Randall-Bodman	Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ	Beaverton
Pastor Mark Brocker, Ph.D.	St. Andrew Lutheran Church	Beaverton
Rev. Arthur Ellickson	Retired, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Canby
Rev. Jogen Salzberg	Zen Community of Oregon	Clatskanie
Rev. Jan Chozen Bays	Zen Community or Oregon/Great Vow Zen Monastery	Clatskanie
Rev. Sara Shinei Monial	Zen Community of Oregon	Clatskanie
Rev. Karen Bloom	First United Methodist Church	Corvallis
Rev. Karen G. Hill	First Presbyterian Church	Cottage Grove
Rev. Amber Churchill		Corvallis
Rev. Edgar Brandt	Board Member, Farm Worker Ministry Northwest	Dallas
Rev. Steve Mitchell	United Methodist Church	Dallas
The Rev. Deacon Thomas R. English	Episcopal Diocese of Oregon Prison Ministry Commission	Eugene
Rev. Adam Briddell	The First United Methodist Church of Eugene	Eugene
Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Rubenstein	Temple Beth Israel	Eugene
Rabbi Emeritus Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin	Temple Beth Israel	Eugene
Rev. Linda Finley	Center for Spiritual Living	Eugene

Rev. Karlene Clark	Wesley United Methodist Church	Eugene
Edith Roberts	Central Presbyterian Church	Eugene
Rev. Dr. Lorne Bostwick		Eugene
Rev. Jessie Connor	First United Methodist Church	Eugene
The Rev. Laurie A. Jones	Central Lutheran Church	Eugene
Seido Martin, Zen Teacher	Zen West ~ Empty Field Sangha	Eugene
Rev. Charles Busch, Executive Director	Fields of Peace	Eugene
The Rev. Deacon Nancy Muhlheim	St Mary's Episcopal Church	Eugene
Rev. Roberta J. Egli	Wesley United Methodist Church	Eugene
Rev. Jennifer D. Martin	Presbyterian Church (USA)	Eugene
Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie	Pacific University Center for Peace and Spirituality	Forest Grove
Rev. Dr. James Boston	St. George Episcopal Church of Roseburg	Grants Pass
Rev. Roger D. Fuchs (ret.)	Resurrection Lutheran Church, ELCA	Gresham
Karen Nettler, Board Chair	Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices	Happy Valley
The Rev. Paul R Swanson	Retired Bishop Emeritus, Oregon Synod, ELCA	Happy Valley
Ms. Barbara O'Hare	Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Board Member	Hillsboro
Rev. Adam H. Hange	Hillsboro First Congregational United Church of Christ	Hillsboro
Rev. Andrew Wade	Bethel United Church of Christ/Mennonite	Hood River
Pastor Brent Kauffman	Lebanon Mennonite Church	Lebanon
Rev. Jennie Ott	Lake Oswego United Church of Christ	Lake Oswego
Rev. John Aney		Lake Oswego
The Rev. Jaime Sanders, JD	Christ Episcopal Church of St. Helens	Lake Oswego
Rev. Michael R. Grogan	Congregational Church of Lincoln City, United Church of Christ	Lincoln City
Pastor Matthew Johnson	First Presbyterian Church	McMinnville
Sister Cathy Beckley, SNJM	Sisters of the Holy Names	McMinnville
Rev. Laura Lee Kent	Medford United Church of Christ	Medford
Rev. Valerie A. Garrick	Ashland United Church of Christ/Providence Medical	Medford
Rev. Barbara Haddon	United Presbyterian Church	Medford
Rev. Linda M. Bergeon	Eastwood Baptist Church	Medford
Sister Mary Pat Naumes, SNJM	Sisters of the Holy Names, Catholic	Medford
Rev. Murray Richmond	First Presbyterian Church	Medford
Rev. Dr. Amanda Zentz-Alo	Central Lutheran Church of Portland	Milwaukie
DeEtte Waleed, Professor at PSU	Bridgeport United Church of Christ	Milwaukie
Rev. Denise Andersen	United Church of Christ	Milwaukie
Rev. Adam Ericksen	Clackamas United Church of Christ	Milwaukie
Rev. Aric Clark	Presbytery of Cascades	Milwaukie
The Rev. John Reutter-Harrah	Prince of Life Lutheran Church	Oregon City
Bruce Strade	Pastor Emeritus of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	Portland
Rev. Jeremy Richards	Grant Park Church (American Baptist Churches USA)	Portland
Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Campbell	Covenant Presbyterian	Portland
Rev. Jyoshin Clay	Dharma Rain Zen Center	Portland

Rabbi Daniel J Isaak	Congregation Neveh Shalom	Portland
Rev. Leo C Tautfest	Central Lutheran Church	Portland
Nancy Kodo Conover, Zen Teacher	Zen Community of Oregon	Portland
Ed Kaiel	St. Ignatius Parish	Portland
Jane Snyder	Willamette Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	Portland
Rev. Rebecca L Farrester	St Paul's United Methodist Church	Portland
Rev. Connie Yost	Farm Worker Ministry Northwest	Portland
Chris Kondrat	St. Pius X	Portland
Pastor Rod Stafford	Portland Mennonite Church	Portland
Pastor Curt Weaver	Portland Mennonite Church	Portland
Hogen Bays, Roshi	Zen Community of Oregon, Buddhist	Portland
Rabbi Ariel Stone	Congregation Shir Tikvah and Portland Interfaith Clergy Resistance	Portland
Dr. Andy Harris	Board of Directors, Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices	Portland
Robert Ewing	Saint John the Baptist Episcopal Church of Beaverton	Portland
Rev. Dr. Karen Wood	Chaplain, Willamette University	Portland
Rabbi Rachel Joseph	Congregation Beth Israel	Portland
Claudia Roberts, UMC Peace with Justice Coordinator	Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Conference	Portland
Rev. Christopher Craun	St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church	Portland
Rev. Dr. James Moiso	Presbyterian Church (USA)	Portland
Rev. Andrea Cano		Portland
Rabbi Eve Posen	Congregation Neveh Shalom	Portland
Rev. Sylvia Eagan	Ainsworth United Church of Christ	Portland
Rev. Sue F. Ayer (ret.)	Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Hillsboro	Portland
Rev. Dr. Beverly Crow		Portland
Rev. Mary Sue Evers	Cedar Hills United Church of Christ	Portland
Rev. Stephen Bjorlin	Irvington Covenant Church	Portland
Chris Bekemeier, President, Church Council	Central Lutheran Church	Portland
Rabbi Benjamin Barnett	Havurah Shalom	Portland
Rev. Jeanne Randall-Bodman	Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ	Portland
Rev. Bill Sinkford	First Unitarian Portland	Portland
Rev. Lowell Greathouse	United Methodist Church, Oregon-Idaho	Portland
Mira Mickiewicz, Minister	First Unitarian Church of Portland	Portland
The Rev. Duane Fickeisen	Minister Emeritus, First Unitarian Church of Portland	Portland
Rev. Wendy Fish	Minister, First Unitarian Church of Portland	Portland
The Reverend Laurie L. Newman	Westminster Presbyterian	Portland
Rev. Joshua Dunham	Moreland Presbyterian Church	Portland
The Rev. Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, Deacon/Dean	Academy for Formation and Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish	Portland
Rev. Erin Martin	Oregon Idaho Conference United Methodist Church	Portland
Katherine Jameson Pitts, Conference Minister	Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference	Portland
Rev. Cecil Charles Prescod	Ainsworth United Church of Christ	Portland

Rev. Dr. Rodney Page	First Christian Church Portland	Portland
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Rabbi Debra Kolodny	As the Spirit Moves Us and Portland's UnShul	Portland
Rev. Timothy L. Overton-Harris	Cascadia District Superintendent, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, the United Methodist Church	Salem
Pastor Gary Borges	Retired. Lutheran	Salem
Karen Ofenham Brioso	United Church of Christ	Salem
Rev. Mary Gear	First Unitarian Church of Portland	Salem
Rev. Dr. Charles Wallace	Chaplain Emeritus, Willamette University	Salem
Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson	Smyrna United Church of Christ of Canby	Salem
Rev. Elizabeth Jones	United Methodist Church	Seal Rock
Rev. Ardis Letey		Seal Rock
Pastor Robert M. Bjornstad	Retired Lutheran Pastor	Seaside
Rev. Molly Carlson	Central Pacific Conference	Silverton
Rev. Dr. Tim Cayton	First Presbyterian Church of Lebanon	Silverton
Jo Ann English	Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women	Springfield
Rev. Sean Langdon	Community of Christ	Springfield
The Rev. Nancy Sargent McGrath Green	Sunriver Christian Fellowship	Sunriver
The Rev. Jerry Jefferies, retired	Shared Ministry: Lutheran, Episcopal and United Methodist	Tillamook
Rev. Brenda S Wills		Toledo
Rev. Ryan Scott	Trinity United Methodist Church	Toledo
Rev. Taylor Gould	Faith United Methodist Church	Troutdale
Rev. Sue Seiffert	St. Stephen Lutheran Church of Gladstone	Tualatin
Reverend Dianne Rodriguez	United Church of Christ	Tualatin
Rev. C. Bunny Oliver	Bethel United Church of Christ	Vancouver, WA
Rev. Victoria C. Brown	First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg	Winchester