

March 28, 2023

Dear Oregon Judiciary Committee Members,

Gun violence in America is our national shame. A gun in the hands of any human being is a dangerous weapon. Even the most sane and most responsible among us can lift a gun for what, in the moment, may seem a good reason and take a life. We can't remove all guns from Americans, but here in Oregon the people voted to reduce gun violence by enacting more strict regulations for gun ownership. Please improve on Measure 114 as it was written and passed into law, but do not diminish or delete any of its provisions.

I am a retired religious leader. I've grieved over and over again with my congregations at the news of public shootings and with their losses to gun violence. I've mourned the loss of my own family members. I led a memorial service for my best friend.

Please take this moment after the latest school shooting of innocent young children and school staff members to make sure Oregonians will have greater protection from gun violence.

Thank you for the work you do for all of us.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Judith B. Meckling