

Submitter: Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson
On Behalf Of: Lift Every Voice Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

To the Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary thank you for holding this hearing on HB 3075. As Senior Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, Chair of Lift Every Voice Oregon and a Chief Petitioner for Measure 114 which data shows will save lives I write strongly in favor of HB 3075. I write in favor of swift, wise and full implementation of Measure 114 as approved by Oregon voters in 2022. As you know so well gun violence is the number one cause of death of children and youth in the US. As a past chair of the Northwest Health Foundation and a long time worker for peace in our communities and world I know as you do that gun violence impacts all areas of public health. First the physical health of those who are injured or killed, second the emotional and mental health of those who witness it. Third the spiritual health of the surrounding community as children ask how can a person shoot another and the community not respond to end the violence. Fourth, the impact on the social wellbeing of a school or community is also greatly impacted and it takes years to even begin to heal. The human cost and the societal cost are far more than any numbers could represent. Measure 114, a common sense and very effective law to save lives was passed by Oregonians after over 3000 volunteers of all ages believing in the power of democracy did what was said could not be done. They gathered 161,000 signatures to place it on the ballot This is an Oregon law voted for by voters in all 36 counties with over 42% of rural voters casting their ballots in favor along with 50.7 percent of all Oregonians. I encourage you to implement it rapidly when the time comes and it fully clears the courts. Thank you for being public servants on behalf of us all. We keep all of you from every party in our prayers. Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson