



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

Senate Rules Committee

**Testimony in Support of SCR 3 Honoring Emily Gottfried
Mary Jo Tully, Chancellor
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
May 8, 2013**

Chair Rosenbaum, Vice-Chair Ferrioli and Members of Senate Rules Committee, my name is Mary Jo Tully and I am Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

It seems very natural that members of the faith community would gather in Salem to support SCR 3 to honor Emily Gottfried. Those of us who work within the faith communities in Oregon come into contact with socially concerned and compassionate individuals on a regular basis and so do you. We meet people who advocate for the hungry, who speak for the homeless, those discriminated against, the poor and the vulnerable. But those of you who have met Emily know as well as we do that Emily Gottfried was not your ordinary supporter of a particular population or a single cause. She was not a lobbyist with several issues. Emily had only one cause and one issue. Emily was an advocate for a broken world.

Her special mission was *tikkun olam* (repairing the earth). Wherever Emily went, she united people in the vision she had of a better world. When she came

to the seminary to talk to my students, we heard the depth of her faith in Judaism. At the demonstration Seder, we heard the Passover story address the needs of all who seek freedom. Serving on committees together, she made it obvious that she saw that helping those who are in need, no matter in what capacity, is "holy" work. In the spirit of repairing the world, Emily worked in all communities, with people of many faiths and people of no religious faith. She touched the roots of their human compassion and the faith they have in one another. Wherever Emily was, she brought people together and she continued to nurture those relationships. Emily loved to introduce those for whom she cared to one another. We knew her family. We knew her friends and suddenly we found ourselves a part of every group to which she belonged.

Many met her because of a shared interest in some cause. Once you met Emily because you liked just one of her many projects, you became engaged in other restorative acts. Her ideas became yours. She didn't have to ask us to join in a project, we asked her—like the time I heard that the American Jewish Committee was sending solar ovens to Darfur. It seemed quite natural to me that I should call Emily and ask her if we Catholics could become part of that effort.

Emily knew that it is a human responsibility to change, improve and work for the betterment of the world. Part of Emily belongs to each of us and that part of Emily will continue. We will try to do what Emily did. We know that none of us is Emily and we mourn her loss but part of her remains. Wherever Emily went, she left behind enduring relationships. While she healed the world, she repaired

all of us. She made us want to be better people; she made us want to be like her.

SCR 3 is our promise.