

*from Sara A Gelse*

# Oregon Faith Leaders

## ***Support The Youth Mental Health Protection Act (HB 2307)***

**Born Perfect:** As members of the clergy, we lift up with joy the opportunity for Oregon to say no young person should ever be shamed by a mental health professional into thinking that who they are is wrong. We are all born perfect. We are all a creation of God. Mental health professionals should provide care that is ethical and affirming for gay and transgender young people. We can't allow one more young person to be targeted and hurt by these dangerous and discredited practices.

**Clergy and Free Speech Protected:** To those who worry that this bill infringes on religious freedom and first amendment rights, we say absolutely not. This bill does not restrict any protected First Amendment speech. It prohibits discredited treatments by state-licensed mental health care professionals. It does not apply to clergy or to individuals who provide religious instruction. It also does not prevent anyone from publishing, discussing, or advocating any viewpoints or beliefs regarding sexual orientation or anything else.

### **We Support HB 2307:**

- **Aloha:** Rev. Vernon A. Groves, First United Methodist Church
- **Beaverton:** Rev. Larry Snow
- **Condon:** Rev. Tim Graves, Condon United Church of Christ
- **Corvallis:** Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson
- **Cottage Grove:** Rev. Bruce Cameron, Rev. Duncan & Joyce Cameron
- **Eagle Point:** Rev. Mary Piper
- **Eugene:** Rev. April Oristano, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- **Forest Grove:** Rev. Jennifer Yocum, Forest Grove United Church of Christ
- **Halsey:** Rev. Warren Light, Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church, Halsey; and Wesley Foundation at the University of Oregon
- **Hood River:** Rev. Anna Carmichael, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Diocese Eastern Oregon; Rev. Gary Young
- **Junction City:** Rev. Dr. Catherine Davis, Junction City United Methodist Church
- **Medford:** Rev. Caren Caldwell, Medford United Church of Christ
- **Portland:** Pastor Amanda Zentz-Alo, Central Lutheran Church; Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana - Congregation Beth Israel; Pastor W.J. Mark Knutson, Augustana Lutheran Church; Rev. Cecil Prescod, Ainsworth United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. William Sinkford, First Unitarian Church of Portland; Rev. Tara Wilkins, Community of Welcoming Congregations
- **Salem:** Rev. Diane Dulin, United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Janet Parker, First Congregational United Church of Christ
- **Tillamook:** Rev. John Sandusky, St. John's United Church of Christ

**Please Vote Aye on The Youth Mental Health Protection Act.**

**From the Office of:** *Senator Sara Gelse*