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Augustana Lutheran Church

*"...and what does
the Lord require
of you but to do
justice, and to love
kindness, and to
walk humbly with
your God."
— Micah 6:8*

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Testimony in Favor of SB496 / SB505

June 27, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Members of the Public Safety Committee

I am writing this letter in strong support of SB496 / SB505 that will be considered by the Public Safety Committee.

Our grand jury system is a vital component of the legal system in Oregon; however, the process of recording testimony based on an 1863 statute asking a member of the grand jury to keep handwritten notes is far outdated and damages the trust in such a system.

These two bills would move Oregon into the norm nationally (since the 1980's) to electronically record grand jury proceedings. These bills, based on the laws used in Idaho and Alaska, would serve to help restore community trust in the grand jury process. I urge your full support of these bills, and look forward to the passage of one of them by the Legislature in the next two weeks.

Sincerely,

Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson
Senior Pastor
Augustana Lutheran Church
Portland, Oregon

