

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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June 26, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters—Co-Chair, Representative Duane Stark—Co-Chair, and Members of the Public Safety Subcommittee:

We at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) respectfully urge your support of SB 496 and SB 505 to require recordings of grand jury proceedings so as to ensure faith in the integrity of our criminal justice system and provide district attorneys and the accused equal access to critical evidence.

EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and public policy advocacy.

Many of our ten social service programs serve victims of crime, while our member churches throughout the state are too often witnesses to the tragedy, anguish and long-term impacts a crime can have on an individual, family and community. We call for solidarity and aid for, and justice on behalf of, all victims.

We also call for a balanced system through which that justice may be pursued. Furthermore, faith in the integrity of the criminal justice system is a bedrock of community safety. For these reasons, we urge your support of SB 496 and SB 505 to require recordings of grand jury proceedings.

Thank you for your continued efforts to address the needs and stand up for the rights of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director, EMO