

# Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church in Halsey

*A Place of*

*Peace*



*Justice*

*Community*

**Re: HB 4145**

February 20, 2018

Dear Representatives:

Thank you again for the work you are doing to consider this legislation.

On my drive home, I recognized that I had an additional concern about the Senate hearing today. The term, "limitations" was used in the context of limiting offenders' access to firearms. The word was used appropriately. I respect the need for asking these questions and for seeking information that helps inform your decisions. However, I would like to point out that the limitations in respect to those persons forfeiting gun use pale in comparison to the limitations put upon the lives of victims/survivors of domestic violence or stalking. If one has occasion to ask a group of survivors what they have lost, what has been taken from them, the list is very long indeed. The survivor's list also includes the basics for life itself.

Further, I would note that the law recognizes the need for limitations of rights in many cases. In drunk driving cases, loss of license and loss of access to alcohol are generally required. Other limitations occur when persons make choices to break the law in other ways. In the faith community, we call such limitations "consequences." Consequences can provide opportunity for growth. We believe that to truly change our lives, we need to accept accountability.

This last point is most important. Having worked with both victims and offenders in support of their healing, it is clear to me that the life of an offender is liberated when he or she accepts and recognizes their own need for accountability. No one is served when the community enables, condones, or allows violent behavioral patterns - especially when lethal violence may result.

As you deliberate, please recognize that there are more serious and more numerous "limitations" on our citizens if we fail to act at this time. Please support HB 4145.

Thank you once again for your time, and most of all, your dedicated service and leadership.

Sincerely,

*Warren Light*

Rev. Warren Light, Esq., Director of the Wesley Community Center  
2520 Harris Street, Eugene OR 97405 [and]

Pastor, Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church in Halsey [Linn County]