



April 2, 2019

## Letter of Support for HB 2013

Chair Williamson and other Distinguished Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Lift Every Voice Oregon (LEVO) was formed roughly a year ago, following the Parkland, Florida shooting to respond to the voices of youth and others who called for responsible action to end the senseless gun violence. The Directors are faith leaders from Muslim, Jewish and Christian traditions and other people of good faith in Oregon and our membership has grown into the thousands. We submit this letter to the House Judiciary Committee to express our strong support for the provisions of HB 2013.

The Legislature has already made clear that those who have committed acts such as stalking, intimidating, molesting and menacing should be prohibited from accessing firearms and ammunition. Such laws provide protection to children, family members and others who may be at risk if the firearms currently owned can still be accessed. This bill provides essential and detailed instructions to ensure that such firearms will be relinquished promptly. The language is remarkably clear in setting forth both the options and the mandatory obligations of the courts, law enforcement and individuals, who are subject to an order to relinquish their weapons. Such clarity provides fairness and also improves the capability of successful enforcement. This Committee and all Oregon legislators should be confident that when they vote to support this measure they are taking necessary and reasonable steps to promote safety and reduce the abuse of firearms, which far too often results in serious injuries or death.

While the LEVO campaign has focused upon measures that would reduce the proliferation of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, we stand in solidarity with those who have proposed the revisions set forth in HB 2013 and urge this Committee to send it to the full House for passage.

Blessings to each of you,

**Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson**, Sr. Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, LEVO Chair

**Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana**, Congregation Beth Israel, LEVO Director

**Rev. Alcena Boozer**, Former Principal of Jefferson High School, Pastor Emerita of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, LEVO Director

**Muhammad Najieb**, Director of Muslim Community Center Portland, LEVO Director

**Rev. Lynne Smouse Lopez**, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, LEVO Director

**Tamrah Knutson**, Advisor to Students, LEVO Director

**Elizabeth McKanna**, Advisor to Legal Committee, LEVO Director