



Board Members

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo
Chair

The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker
Chair Elect

The Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee
Immediate Past Chair

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman
Treasurer

The Very Rev. Nathan LeRud
Secretary

The Rev. Catherine Allard
Velynn Brown

The Rev. Vicky Brown

The Rev. Roberta Egli
Glen Gibbons

The Rev. Michael Grogan

The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.

Charles Hudson

The Rev. Dr. Mark Knutson

The Rev. Sean Langdon

The Rev. Terry McCray Hill

The Rev. Nancy McGrath Green

Kathryn Moran

Barbara O'Hare

Peter Sergienko

The Rev. Dr. William Sinkford

Jane Snyder

Pedro Sosa

Gary Withers

Letty Owings

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page

Lifetime Members

Jan Musgrove Elfers

President

Interchurch Center
0245 SW Bancroft St., Ste. B
Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054

fax (503) 223-7007

email emo@emoregon.org

website emoregon.org

February 6, 2020

Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Jan Musgrove Elfers and I am president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). EMO is a statewide association of Christian, ecumenical and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians. For many years, in partnership with numerous other faith communities across Oregon, we have conducted the Interfaith Advocacy Day at the Oregon Capitol, and gun violence prevention has been a core priority of those advocacy days for several years.

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 4005 to ensure that guns across Oregon are safely stored.

Gun violence touches people from all walks of life and all faiths. The fear of violence harms our neighborhoods and our relationships with our neighbors. All people should be able to live a life free of fear. House Bill 4005 is a modest, sensible step to ensure that firearms do not end up in the hands of those who are not prepared to handle them.

We recognize that no one policy will eliminate the scourge of gun violence from our state. But there are numerous meaningful steps we can take to make our communities safer and address the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our nation in a way unseen in any other developed nation. House Bill 4005 will take important steps to prevent access to unsecured weapons and prevent gun trafficking. We urge this committee and the entire Legislature to adopt it.

Several of our partner organizations are also currently working to bring before voters a proposal to restrict the presence of military-style assault weapons. We also strongly support this effort and look forward to speaking to you about that proposal at a future date.

It is not lost on our faith communities that many important gun violence prevention policies were sidelined in the 2019 Legislative Session. We urge you not to repeat that mistake in this important year. The policies in House Bill 4005 will begin saving lives the moment they are put in place. Delay is not an option. Please pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Musgrove Elfers".

Jan Musgrove Elfers
President