

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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Testimony in Support of HB 2543, Closing the “Charleston Loophole”

February 18, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Power and Noble, and Members of the Committee:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon urges your support for HB 2543, a common-sense piece of legislation that will make our communities stronger and safer by ensuring that a criminal history background check is completed before an individual acquires a firearm from a gun dealer or private party.

EMO is a statewide association of over 150 Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians.

Though our organization represents many faith communities across Oregon, they are all bound by a shared belief in the sanctity of human life and the need to protect it. Gun violence is a daily tragedy that impacts Oregonians of all faith traditions and therefore we urge you to support this life-affirming legislation.

HB 2543 reflects the caring and compassion that is critical for reducing gun violence across our state.

While we are resolute in our call for stronger gun laws, we also recognize that ending the epidemic of gun violence will not be addressed by any one step. We ask people of all faith traditions to join in reshaping our society to value the sanctity of life. We are pledged to heal the wounded, protect the vulnerable, and work for peace.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon