

# Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon Faith Movement

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March 16, 2021

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rev. Linda Jaramillo, and I serve as EMO Board Co-chair. Working with over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, EMO strives to build community power that creates a more peaceful, just, sustainable, and compassionate world. EMO works with and for Oregonians through direct service programming, dialogue and advocacy.

**EMO supports HB 2164 -3 and HB 3352**, which address inequities in our health care system by authorizing the Oregon Health Authority to design and implement a program to provide health care coverage to medically underserved individuals, including undocumented adults, legal permanent residents, DACA recipients and young adults who age out of Cover All Kids.

At EMO's SOAR Immigration Legal Services Program, staff who came to our country as immigrants themselves provide not just legal support to the community but connections to health care and other wraparound services. And at EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services program, women and their families who are survivors of domestic violence can simultaneously face health care and financial challenges as they leave their abuser. In these and other spaces, we see first-hand that barriers to adequate, affordable health care undermine family financial stability, educational achievement, and the ability to obtain and maintain employment.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and economic disparities and barriers to health care access and insurance coverage are even more pronounced, resulting in diminished patient health outcomes. Cover All People creates a more equitable and accessible health care system in Oregon.

I served as the Interim Executive Director of the Oregon Latino Health Coalition when Cover All Kids was rolling out. It was a joy to see the unbelievable relief this program was and is to Oregon families. Even then, parents worried about their children aging out. It is time to include the rest of the family! Thank you to the Oregon Latino Health Coalition for your historic leadership and tenacious commitment to families!

And thank you, members of the committee, for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rev. Linda Jaramillo

Board Co-chair, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)