

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon Faith Movement

Board Members

The Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee
Co-chair

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo
Co-chair

The Rev. Michael Grogan
Chair-elect

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman
Treasurer

The Very Rev. Nathan LeRud
Secretary

The Rev. Catherine Allard
The Rev. Vicky Brown
Shawn Daley
The Rev. Roberta Egli
The Rev. Ernestine Flemister
The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.
Charles Hudson
Alaide Ibarra
The Rev. Dr. Mark Knutson
The Rev. Sean Langdon
The Rev. Terry McCray Hill
The Rev. Nancy McGrath Green
Barbara O'Hare
Peter Sergienko
The Rev. Dr. William Sinkford
Jane Snyder
Pedro Sosa
Gary Withers

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page
Lifetime Member

Jan Musgrove Elfers
President

Interchurch Center
245 S. Bancroft St., Ste. B
Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054
fax (503) 223-7007
email emo@emoregon.org
website EMOregon.org

Testimony in Support of HB 2958 25 March 2021

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden & Salinas, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Taylor Gleffe, I serve as Program Director for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) HIV Services program. As part of our programming, we operate a community center for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. I write today on behalf of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and our **urgent support of House Bill 2958**, to provide expanded access to essential preventative HIV treatments such as PEP and PrEP.

HB 2958 makes essential clarifications to existing law by making it clear that Oregon's licensed pharmacists can legally conduct HIV tests, order, and interpret lab tests and results. Each of these are essential components of prescribing PrEP, an essential preventative treatment for HIV.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joins with our partner advocacy organizations in emphasizing that HIV-affected communities are disproportionately comprised of marginalized identities. For instance, the CDC estimates that 44% of those who could benefit from PrEP are Black and 25% are Latinx, despite the fact that less than 1% of those prescribe PrEP are from these communities.¹ We know that if current rates continue, one in two queer Black men who have sex will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime. HB 2958 plays an essential role in making sure this does not become a reality in Oregon.

HB 2958 also makes essential changes to Oregon Law to require PrEP and PEP are accessible and covered, even at out-of-network pharmacies, to overcome barriers in accessibility and ensure pharmacists are able to effectively prescribe PrEP and PEP.

As people of faith, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon affirms that each individual is deserving of human rights such as access to health care, which includes equitable access to essential treatments such as PrEP and PEP. We urge passage of HB 2958 and extend our gratitude to the individuals and organizations who helped craft the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

In Partnership,

Taylor Gleffe
Program Manager, HIV Services
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/2018/croi-2018-PrEP-press-release.html>