

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon Faith Movement

Testimony in Support of HB 3159 6 April 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 Manager 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 3159**, The Data Justice Act.

House Bill 3159 seeks to tackle the disproportionate impacts of severe health issues on Oregon's BIPOC, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and other underserved or marginalized populations by centering the need for health care providers to collect data on the identities patients hold.

At EMO's HIV Services Day Center our clients have expressed how many barriers there are in receiving health care, particularly HIV care. By asking providers to collect data that reflects the multitude of identities that a patient holds, we enable OHA and the State of Oregon to identify and tackle institutional racism within our healthcare system. This data will include the race, ethnicity, language, disability (REAL-D), sexual orientation, and gender identity (SOGI) of each patient. We know that confidentiality is essential and emphasize to the committee that this data will be considered confidential and will not be subject to disclosure.

We affirm collection of data, as enabled by HB 3159, an essential component of addressing and eradicating institutional racism in healthcare and as it pertains to social determinants of both BIPOC and LGBTQ+ health in Oregon.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joins with our partner advocacy organizations in emphasizing that HIV-affected communities are disproportionately comprised of marginalized identities. Based on one study, 42% of Americans living with HIV are Black, despite comprising only 13% of the US population.¹ We know that those most at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS are those marginalized in society due to identities which include those included in HB 3159.²

As people of faith, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon affirms that each individual is deserving of human rights such as access to equitable and accessible health care. We urge passage of HB 3159 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

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¹ Context Matters: Ending the HIV Epidemic Among Black Communities:

https://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On_The_Hill/2020/infographic-VI.pdf

² Helping the vulnerable and the marginalized: Understanding the social factors that impact HIV prevention and treatment:

<https://synergies.oregonstate.edu/2019/helping-the-vulnerable-and-the-marginalized/>