

# Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

## Oregon Faith Movement

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## Testimony in Support of HJM 1 8 April 2021

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

I am writing to express Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's support for HJM 1: which urges congress to prohibit ICE enforcement in sensitive locations. <sup>1</sup> Working with over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) strives to envision communities of faith in partnership creating a more peaceful, just, sustainable, and compassionate world. EMO works with and for Oregonians through direct service programming, dialogue, and advocacy. Two of EMO's direct service programs work with our immigrant and migrant communities: Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) and SOAR Legal Services. Furthermore, both our Second Home program and Northeast Emergency Food Program serve undocumented and immigrant communities as part of their purview.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon stands in solidarity and partnership with our immigrant communities and condemns the role of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in intimidating and terrorizing individuals, families, and children. These actions are traumatic for impacted communities and reinforce a sense of distrust between immigrant communities and various government entities in the United States. We affirm equal opportunity and equitable access to, and systems of, justice<sup>2</sup>, which cannot be the status quo so long as certain communities are disproportionately impacted by the role of ICE.

Oregon's immigrants are Oregonians. They contribute to the wellness of our communities and economies, paying over \$30 billion in federal and state taxes.<sup>1</sup> EMO abhors the lasting cognitive and developmental impacts of the stress and fear that can be caused by family separation, especially for children, with 1 out of 12 Oregon children living with at least one undocumented family member.<sup>1</sup> We stand in full support of HJM 1 and thank you for your consideration of this important document.

In partnership,

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<sup>1</sup> OLIS, Senate Joint Memorial 1:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SJM1/Introduced>

<sup>2</sup> Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Statement of Social Principles and Concerns:

[https://emoregon.org/pdfs/Public\\_Policy/EMO\\_Statement\\_of\\_Social\\_Principles\\_rev2012.pdf](https://emoregon.org/pdfs/Public_Policy/EMO_Statement_of_Social_Principles_rev2012.pdf)