



May 6, 2021

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

My name is Reverend Michael Grogan, I serve as Board Chair at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). 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.

#### **Board Members**

The Rev. Michael Grogan  
*Chair*

The Rev. Roberta Egli  
*Chair-elect*

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo  
*Immediate Past Chair*

The Rev. Paul Belz-Templeman  
*Treasurer*

Barbara O'Hare  
*Secretary*

The Rev. Catherine Allard  
The Rev. Andrew Bansemmer  
Dr. Robin Beavers  
Shawn Daley  
The Rev. Ernestine Flemister  
Charles Hudson  
Alaide Ibarra

The Rev. Beverly Jackson  
The Rev. Dr. Mark Knutson  
The Rev. Sean Langdon  
The Very Rev. Nathan LeRud  
The Rev. Erika Marksburry  
Patty Nance  
The Rev. Cecil Prescod  
Peter Sergienko  
The Rev. Dr. William Sinkford  
Jane Snyder  
Pedro Sosa

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](mailto:emo@emoregon.org)  
website [EMOregon.org](http://EMOregon.org)

**EMO supports SJR 12**, which directs Oregon voters to assess an amendment to the Oregon constitution which obligates the state to ensure access to cost-effective, appropriate, and affordable healthcare. EMO is proud to be a member of Health Care for All Oregon and to sit on HCAO's Faith Caucus.

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.

Moreover, EMO's advocacy work is informed by our Statement of Social Principles, among which are Human Rights and Religious Freedom, and Economic Justice. Access to quality healthcare is woven into each of these social principles, whether it be the health and well-being of workers or the welfare of children and their family's economic stability.

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. As a Reverend in Lincoln City, I see these health disparities firsthand in my congregation, along intersecting lines that extend into across our rural community.

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

Sincerely,  
Rev. Michael Grogan  
Board Co-chair, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)  
Congregational Church of Lincoln City UCC