

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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Statement on HB 2839, CARES Act Disconnect

February 11, 2021

Chairs Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham and Reschke and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

EMO is a statewide association of over 150 Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs. These programs feed the hungry, house those in need, support those living with HIV and AIDS, protect survivors of domestic violence, resettle refugees and provide opportunity to thousands every year.

With these community members in mind, EMO supports HB 2839.

We seek state leaders to partner far more deeply in this effort. We seek a government that is more fully responsive to human needs and aspirations. We are called to act in solidarity with those on the margins, to establish social and economic systems that encourage, enable and empower all people to develop and use their capabilities to meet their needs and to contribute to the social welfare.

Sadly, Oregon's education system, anti-poverty and hunger programs, and many other government services are not meeting the needs of Oregonians, particularly those living on the margins.

We urge you to pass HB 2839 and ensure our most vulnerable neighbors have an opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon