



February 8, 2023

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Sosa and Elmer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kim Wagner and I am a Public Policy Associate with the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. 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 providing programming, space for dialogue, participating in community-supported political advocacy, and providing direct services for tens of thousands of Oregonians.

I am writing to express EMO's support for HB 2801, relating to conditions for financing a purchase of a car.

Reliable transportation enables Oregonians maintain employment, access education, maintain child care and access medical care— go through difficult processes to buy a reliable car. HB 2801 would prevent Oregonians from being unexpectedly charged a higher interest rate than what was initially agreed upon with the dealership. Currently, this practice results in a loss of money, a loss of mobility should the dealer repossess the vehicle and a damaged credit score — making it more difficult for them to maintain financial stability.

HB 2801 is one of several protections needed in Oregon's auto industry. Rather than weak disclosure laws that place the burden on the consumer to read and understand reams of fine print, Oregon law should be clear in its values and priorities, including enacting straight-forward laws like:

- All cars sold to consumers by dealers must be safe and roadworthy, and**
- Dealers shall not sell a car to a consumer with an open safety recall**

HB 2801 would help to bring more transparency and honesty to the car-buying process in Oregon and will help to uplift the state's work to bring more stability and security to our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Kim Wagner

Public Policy Associate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon