



February 5, 2024

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf and Members of the Committee,

My name is Britt Conroy, and I serve as Public Policy Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO is proud to partner with our 15 member denominations that represent nearly 750 congregations across the state. EMO's direct service programs proudly serve individuals who have come to Oregon as asylum seekers, refugees and newcomers.

As an organization grounded in faith, we center the human dignity of every Oregonian we walk alongside in our housing, food and legal programs. We are proud to live in a state that stands with those fleeing persecution and violence. HB 4159 would move Oregon from the Welcome Center's emergency response and the Legislature's rehousing investment made during the 2023 session to a collaborative built-for-the-long-term system that protects newcomers.

We strongly urge this committee to support HB 4159.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy  
Director of Public Policy  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)