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### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon releases Voters' Guide, recommends "Yes" vote on four Oregon ballot measures**

Oct. 3, 2022 (Portland, Ore.) – Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) "Voters' Guide to the 2022 Oregon Ballot Measures" will be mailed this week to over 6,000 faith communities and individuals across the state. In the "Voters' Guide," EMO recommends support for all four of the statewide measures on the fall ballot. An electronic version of the "Voters' Guide," as well as a print-friendly version, is also available at [emoregon.org/advocacy-action/](http://emoregon.org/advocacy-action/).

For nearly 50 years, EMO has advocated for policies and legislation that help create an Oregon that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Releasing the biannual "Voters' Guide" is an important part of this work, providing thoughtful guidance to people of faith and goodwill and helping connect current ballot initiatives to deeper values.

The positions taken in EMO's "Voters' Guide" are endorsed through a democratic process by its board of directors after the careful recommendation of a volunteer Public Policy Advocacy Committee, which considers arguments by both supporters and opponents of each measure and past EMO positions on similar measures. Ballot measure recommendations are also guided by the organization's Statement of Social Principles (view at [emoregon.org/socialprinciples/](http://emoregon.org/socialprinciples/)).

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon makes the following recommendations on the four state-wide measures on the November 2022 Oregon ballot.

**Vote YES on Measure 111, Right to Health Care:** A YES vote conveys broad, state-wide approval of health care as a basic human right, while recognizing that more work needs to be done. In addition to supporting Measure 111, EMO urges further action to legally guarantee health care access for all Oregonians. Further, given that lack of health care disproportionately affects low-income Oregonians, EMO recognizes health care for all to be an issue of economic justice. In a time where the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of all Oregonians and exacerbated the disparities in health outcomes faced by communities of color, EMO shares in the belief that providing health care for those who do not have coverage contributes to the health of our whole society.

**Vote YES on Measure 112, Remove Slavery as a Punishment for a Crime:** As currently written, the Oregon constitution’s use of language regarding slavery and involuntary servitude is incompatible with the fight for racial justice and fair treatment of Oregonians in custody. Using slavery, a word and practice that has painful historical and present-day implications, is unjust and steeped in racism. EMO also supports the right to honorable employment. We strongly believe in a system that affirms the rights of workers, and adults in custody (AIC) are no exception. While Measure 17 (approved in 1994) may provide important job training for AICs, forcing them to work for no pay is not only unfair but echoes back to historical practices of slavery, particularly given the over-representation of Black Oregonians in the prison population.

**Vote YES on Measure 113, Government Accountability.** EMO firmly believes in a responsive government that prioritizes the needs of Oregon’s residents and advances the common good. When legislators choose to impede a quorum, important issues—particularly those that impact marginalized Oregonians—are neglected. A “YES” vote on Measure 113 sends a strong message to Oregon’s politicians that their role in the democratic process should not be taken lightly. Additionally, we urge legislators and our faith partners to support even stronger deterrents from legislative obstruction. A cap of 10 unexcused absences is a first step towards preventing walkouts but does little to stop gridlock in Salem—particularly in the five-week short session, where a 10-day walkout can derail the entire session.

**Vote YES on Measure 114, Reduction of Gun Violence Act.** EMO affirms the right of all Oregonians to reside in a state free from gun violence. Ensuring responsible and well-trained gun ownership and eliminating high-capacity magazines is vital to decreasing gun violence in Oregon. High-capacity magazines are used to commit the majority of mass shootings in the United States. The concrete, common sense steps laid out in Measure 114 are much needed and long overdue. Contrary to what the opposition says, this measure does not attack gun ownership; rather, it implements reasonable restrictions that promote safety and training.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy.*

*Please note the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.*