



June 10, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

Dear Co-Chair Hass, Co-Chair Nathanson and Members of Committee:

My name is Shannon Vilhauer, and I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. I am writing to share our organization's strong support for HB 2164.

At Habitat for Humanity, we believe that all Oregonians deserve the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a proven tool that enables working families to make critical investments. Examples include repairing the car needed to get to work, paying for school clothes and reducing household debt.

In order to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, households must both work and file their taxes. We wholeheartedly endorse ensuring that families have access to this benefit, whether or not they have a social security number.

Given the Earned Income Tax Credit's proven impacts, we strongly support enhanced benefits for families with children under the age of three. We all know that access to nutrition and additional resources are critical during early childhood development.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and the 26 Habitat for Humanity affiliates building and repairing homes across the state, thank you for your service. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of HB 2164.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Vilhauer".

Shannon M. Vilhauer, Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

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