



Oregon School Employees Association

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Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Sen. Mark Hass and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chairs
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) represents more than 22,000 workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members perform many of the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers.

It's an unfortunate reality that many educators, especially those that work less than full time and less than 12 months per year, struggle to make ends meet for themselves and their families. It's not uncommon for educators to work two or more jobs, especially those who are primary income generators for their households; which, of course, sounds about the same as the situation for most working families in Oregon.

House Bill (HB) 2164 should be passed with amendments to renew and raise Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and renew the Political Contribution Tax Credit. Both are critical to working families like the educators that I represent. These are folks who are proud to do their share – much more than their share, in many cases – to support public education and the other good things that we can do with state tax dollars. We already ask more of working families than wealthy families, relative to total income. The EITC and political contribution tax credit are important to the overall balance of our system.

Renewing and raising the EITC and Political Contribution Tax Credit will help support Oregon families as they battle increasing health and housing costs. **We strongly urge this committee to pass HB 2164 with renewal of both the EITC and the Political Contribution Tax Credit.**

Thank you for your attention,

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