

To: House Committee on Revenue,
RE: In support of HB 2819
From: Mario Ortiz Palafox

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham and Reschke, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Mario Ortiz Palafox and in my personal time, I am here in strong support of HB 2819 Leave no Workers Behind/ EITC for ITIN Filers.

I am a community member in Woodburn, a rural, agricultural community. I am the son of a single mother, a Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrival recipient and also a 4th grade teacher in Salem-Keizer Schools.

I have lived in Woodburn for 16 years and I have experienced and seen first hand the effects of Earned Income Tax Credit have, on my family, in my classroom and community.

As a DACA student, I have access to a work permit that I must renew every 2 year. This means I can claim annual income taxes. It's important to know that there are more people in the same situation as me who are DACA recipients. However, we have ITIN holders who claim annual income taxes yet are not receiving the amount that corresponds to them based on their annual income. Today, I am proud to be an educator in the Salem-Keizer Public Schools where I teach a class full of wonderful students. Some of my students come from low income and farmworker households. I often hear from their parents the effects of covid-19 and how they are struggling financially. Some of them waiting for another stimulus check to come or filing their income taxes and hoping to get money back and not pay. Ending the ITIN exclusion promotes racial equity and makes our tax system more equitable. Passing HB 2819 means that 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children.

I hope that my story and the stories of our families show the urgent need for raising families' economic well being and help them pay for essentials. I urge your support on HB 2819.

Sincerely,
Mario Ortiz Palafox
Woodburn, Oregon