



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support for HB 2819

March 2, 2021

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

My name is Khanh Pham, Oregon State Representative for House District 46. I am honored to testify in support of HB 2819 to extend the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for Oregonians, regardless of their immigration status.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a powerful tool to address poverty by putting money in the pockets of low-income families. Families use this tax credit to fix their car to help them get to work, catch up on bills, and to make investments that they normally would not be able to afford throughout the year. In the Revenue Committee's recent tax and equity information hearing on February 18th, increasing access to EITC was mentioned as one of the key ways that we can advance equity in our revenue system. I am excited that we will be able to do that with this bill.

Under Oregon's current system, the EITC is denied to everyone in a household if just one member files their taxes with an ITIN. ITIN filers pay into our revenue system, often working as essential workers who have been at the frontlines of this pandemic. They are parents, siblings, and beloved family of U.S. citizens. By excluding mixed status families from the Earned Income Tax Credit, we are denying the meaningful difference the EITC can make to otherwise qualifying families.

Passing HB 2819 means that nearly 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children. Oregon is made more beautiful by the changing diversity of our neighbors and their households, and our state's policies to help families thrive. Mixed status households, many of whom are our neighbors, should receive our support, too.

From a public health perspective, we understand the multifaceted impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including the lifelong impacts of growing up under chronic poverty. By addressing this barrier to accessing EITC, **we can create a healthier state where families and children will be able to gain economic stability and access opportunities to thrive.** I urge members of the committee to support HB 2819. Thank you.