

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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Statement in Support of HB 2819, EITC for ITIN Filers

March 2, 2021

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs (Fam) Pham and Reschke and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

My name is Britt Conroy, and I serve as Public Policy Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

EMO is a statewide association of over 150 Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians, including through direct service programs. These programs feed the hungry, house those in need, support those living with HIV and AIDS, protect survivors of domestic violence, resettle refugees and provide opportunity to tens of thousands every year.

With our core values and these community members in mind, EMO supports HB 2819, which would allow all income-eligible workers in Oregon to claim the state's EITC, regardless of how they file their taxes.

The EITC boosts worker economic security by raising families' take-home pay, helping families afford rent, groceries and other necessities. 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.

Many of those who would benefit under HB 2819 are Oregon's essential workers, including those working in agriculture, food processing, retail, and construction sectors. These Oregonians are not just essential workers, of course, they are essential, period. To enable those who file using an ITIN to claim the EITC and support their families is to recognize the human dignity of each member of our state.

HB 2819 furthers our state's collective work to create a government that is more fully responsive to human needs and aspirations. We are called to act in solidarity with those on the margins, to establish social and economic systems that encourage, enable and empower all people.

We urge you to pass HB 2819 and ensure our most vulnerable neighbors have an opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon