



March 2nd, 2021

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2819¹: Earned Income Tax Credit

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Werner Reschke and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama, and I am here representing the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,415 members and supporters statewide. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2819: Leave No Worker Behind. The ACLU of Oregon strongly believes all workers, no matter our place of origin, should be able to earn enough to care for our families.

Some jobs pay too little for workers to make ends meet and support their families. The goal of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is to strengthen the economic stability of workers by raising their take-home pay which helps families pay for essentials. HB 2819 supports the wellbeing of our communities by allowing all income-eligible workers in Oregon to claim the state's EITC regardless of how they file their taxes.

Our communities are disproportionately impacted by inequitable conditions that result in disparate opportunities based on an individual's documentation status. Under current policy, the EITC is denied to everyone in a household if one member files their taxes with an ITIN. 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.

Every day we hear stories from community members unable to make ends meet. The EITC currently excludes certain workers, many deemed essential, across agriculture, food processing, retail, and construction sectors. These essential workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to racial inequities across the state. This includes 34,000 Oregon families—predominantly Latinx or Asian Americans—who file their taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). We have an opportunity to protect the stability and wellbeing of our communities with HB 2819.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2819. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Andrea Valderrama, Policy Director
ACLU of Oregon

¹<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2819/Introduced>