



March 2, 2021

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2819

Leave No Worker Behind

Submitted by Chloe Becker on behalf of Family Forward Oregon

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Reschke, and members of the House Revenue Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 2819: Leave No Worker Behind. Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support mothers and caregivers and help them succeed, both in the workplace and at home. Our mission is to create a family-friendly Oregon in which all families can be economically secure and safe. We strongly believe all workers, regardless of how they file their taxes, should be able to earn enough to care for their families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) strengthens the economic stability of workers by raising their take-home pay and helping them provide for their families. Currently, the EITC is denied to everyone in a household if just one family member files their taxes with an ITIN.

Every day we hear stories from neighbors unable to make ends meet in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EITC currently excludes certain workers, many who have been deemed "essential" during the pandemic. These essential workers-- many working in the agriculture, food processing, retail, and construction sectors-- have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to racial inequities across the state. We have an opportunity to truly make a difference and protect the prosperity of these families with HB 2819.

This is an economic justice issue and HB 2819 will better support communities across Oregon by allowing all income-eligible workers to claim the state's EITC, regardless of how they file their taxes. Passing HB 2819 will mean that 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children.

Family Forward Oregon urges your support of HB 2819.