



HB 3373- Support

April 5, 2021

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Reschke and Members of the Committee

The Oregon Women's Right Coalition has been advocating for equality for women and girls since the early 1970's. Our original coalition was in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. We broadened our efforts for equality to include long term looks at equitable revenue sources and the programs they can support through the ways and means process.

This bill would add to the Department of Revenue a Taxpayer Advocate with varied responsibilities. The DOR testimony explains reasons why this addition could help taxpayers.

We support this concept.

We especially support a proposed amendment which would allow grants for community and culturally responsive organizations to aid in tax preparation. Taxes are confusing to those who have never filed, for those from other cultures who are working and providing a benefit to our communities. Many of those with limited income do not have the means to utilize software that makes tax filing easier and asks the questions which will gain the greatest good from our systems.

Our organization has been aware of the usefulness of helping lower income folks learn about the effectiveness of the Earned Income Tax Credit in stretching increasingly difficult budgets. However, as we all know, the same organizations rely on grants and donations to support their needed community works.

We strongly urge your support for this bill with amendments to offer grants. It is needed. It is time. It will help working Oregonians derive the benefit they are due from our tax system.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocacy

Email: owrcadvocacy@gmail.com

OWRC, PO BOX 3025, Portland, OR 97209