

Daysi Bedolla
Woodburn, Oregon
April 23, 2021

Attn: Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield; Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith; and members of Oregon's Joint Committee on Ways & Means

I am writing to you today in response to your calls for equity-based policies. As members of Oregon's Ways & Means Committee, I am asking you to support HB 2819, and continued investment in the Oregon Worker Relief Fund. These are all priority items in *The People's Budget*.

The Oregon Worker Relief Fund provides financial support directly to Oregonians who have lost their jobs yet are ineligible for Unemployment Insurance and federal stimulus relief due to their immigration status, and now face hunger, homelessness, and economic hardship. Fully funding the Oregon Worker Relief Fund would give direct support to workers who need access to a financial safety net now. These workers have been left behind, and you all have the power to change this.

We also ask you to support HB 2819 because all workers no matter their place of origin should be able to earn enough to care for their families.

- This bill has the potential to impact over 34,000 Oregon families—predominantly Latinx and Asian Americans—who file their taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- HB 2819 means that 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon (mostly children) will benefit from the EITC.

These priorities are important to me because as the child of farmworkers I have seen my parents struggle every single day to make ends meet. When I was younger I wasn't able to see my parents because they would work from sunrise to sunset. They have for years done their taxes and have not received the benefits of their labor. HB 2819 is close to my heart as I have seen my parents age and noticed their body starting to deteriorate because of all of the hard physical labor that they do. They do this to ensure that the state of Oregon has fruits, and vegetables for people like you and me to eat. My parents are often praised for their work, but not recognized. This bill would ensure that farmworkers like my parents can use that extra money for their needs, their kids' education, and even a retirement plan.

I believe that Oregon's economic recovery should help those who were hurt most by COVID-19 and our corresponding recession: primarily Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets.

By prioritizing the policies included in *The People's Budget*, you will build an equity-based budget that ensures Oregon emerges stronger than before and is ready to weather future storms. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give feedback.

Thank you,
Daysi Bedolla