

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2819: Leave No Worker Behind.

All tax payers should be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, even if they use an Individual Tax Payer Identification Number.

If the goal of the EITC is to strengthen the economic stability of workers by raising their take-home pay, helping people pay for essentials, we need to include every one in the community.

As we've seen, especially over this last year, some people in our communities are disproportionately and negatively impacted because of their legal status. Many of these people have been working hard to keep our communities running, even while being denied basic benefits available to most of us. 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.

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 ITIN. We have an opportunity to protect the prosperity of our communities with HB 2819.

Please support HB 2819. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Audrey Caro