

Submitter: Jennifer Reynolds  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Human Services  
Measure: HB4117

Testimony in Support of HB 4117  
Jennifer Reynolds  
February 3, 2022

Chair Williams, Vice Chairs Ruiz and Sharf, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4117. My name is Jennifer Reynolds and I am submitting this testimony as a Parent Ambassador for the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program. NFP is a home visiting program that partners specially-trained registered nurses with first-time mothers who are facing social and economic barriers. These home visits begin during pregnancy and continue until the child is two years old. After graduating from the NFP program myself, I am now a volunteer Parent Ambassador advocating for the needs of families in Oregon.

I support House Bill 4117 because of the important impact the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits have in helping individuals and families transition from poverty to self-sufficiency. This bill would enable culturally specific and responsive community-based organizations, tribal governments, and rural communities to better assist Oregon families in accessing critical tax support and navigation resources.

Oregon has taken several important steps over the past years to expand access to the EITC and improve how many families receive these dollars. However, Oregon families still face significant barriers that make it difficult for them to receive the EITC, such as living in rural parts of the state and language barriers. The burden placed on families by the pandemic, in addition to the social and economic barriers many families face, cannot be overstated, as well.

I have received the EITC and received the monthly early child tax credit from the federal government during the last 6 months of 2021. This helped my son and I get by during the summer months and going into the school year while I was unemployed for a short time. I feel this is very important for families, especially families that involve single parents such as myself. I also feel this is important to continue, to help families that need it as we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the pandemic impacting family job security and income, the need is even greater to give families the help they need to receive the important funding made available through the EITC and other tax credits. Every Oregon family eligible for these credits deserves access to free tax preparation and navigation resources so they can access these credits. I urge your support for HB 4117.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Reynolds