



February 3, 2022

Representative Anna Williams, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

I write on behalf of Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to urge your support for HB 4117, which would authorize much-needed investments in the capacity of community-based organizations to help low-income Oregonians access tax credit benefits for which they are eligible.

Much of OCF's strategic work – from grants and loans to community partnerships and activity in the policy realm – is focused on addressing gaps in opportunity for Oregonians who have been most affected by historic disparities. We are deeply concerned that Oregon families are leaving millions of dollars on the table every year in benefits from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) – cash benefits that could help low-income households cope with rent, food and other essential expenses, reduce stress and provide more stable day to day lives for their children. In the last year, OCF has provided grant support to nonprofit organizations that offer free tax navigation and filing services, but these organizations are receiving many more requests for assistance than they can respond to, and additional capacity and culturally-responsive strategies are needed to reach eligible households.

In providing support for expanded, sustainable tax support infrastructure and services in culturally- and geographically-diverse communities, the measures in HB 4117 will help thousands of Oregon families move out of poverty and secure up to \$73 million in available federal benefits.

Please vote in favor of HB 4117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Williams", written in a cursive style.

Max Williams
President & CEO