



Date: February 17, 2022

To: House Rules Committee

Re: OEA support for HB 4157

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals in every community in our state – from pre-K to the community college level – and OEA supports HB 4157.

Over the pandemic we have seen wages grow, but inflation and the cost of living has outstripped those gains. This means that folks who are most living on the margins, struggle even more to make ends meet.

In education this manifests itself in children coming to school hungry, or tired from sleeping in a car, or anxious from any number of the dozens of issues that can plague a family living from pay-check to pay-check.

With HB 4157 the legislature has an elegant way to help. By using the earned income tax credit as the means test, you ensure that folks who most need support get it. By going through DOR, you ensure no application is needed. And by supplying folks with a \$600 cost of living support, you give a meaningful amount that is not subject to state or federal income tax.

HB 4157 is a great program that will help hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who most need cost of living support right now. OEA urges you to pass HB 4157 with a “do pass” recommendation.