

Submitter: Mary King

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB3235

As an economist, I strongly support the creation of a refundable tax credit for families with children, especially those in poverty or with low incomes. Oregon may not be able to create a tax credit on the scale of the temporary, federal tax credit created as pandemic relief, which would be better, but research clearly shows that

- 1) Our poverty line is too low. Consequently many social scientists who study poverty consider the experience of people with income that's double or more the official U.S. poverty threshold.
- 2) Childhood poverty is a very strong predictor of future marginalization, low educational attainment, early childbearing, low income, unemployment, poor health and other challenges.
- 3) Even a small amount of money can make a big difference in parents' stress levels and children's performance in school and future success.

Mary C. King, Professor of Economics Emerita, Portland State University