

Submitter: Dacia Grayber
On Behalf Of: House District 28
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB3235

Copy of verbal testimony presented on HB 3235:

Good afternoon Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dacia Grayber, and I am the state representative for HD 28. I'm here to very briefly testify in support of HB 3235, the Oregon Kid's Credit.

For the more than 200,000 Oregon children that could benefit from this, that \$1200 tax credit is the difference between their family paying rent, or seeking medical or dental care for children in need. I want you to take a moment—can you imagine, for a second, putting yourselves in that parent's shoes? Facing eviction and homelessness, or seeking care for a child's chronic and worsening cough?

I have seen that cough progress to pneumonia, to a child being intubated and fighting for their life, and medical bills in the 10's of thousands piling up, further pushing the family into a cycle of poverty and desperation.

I've also met the family that chose their child's life-saving medication over housing, and living out of their car. The family that felt knowing their child would wake up each morning was worth the risk and fear of living in a vehicle.

We should all be rattled and disturbed that this is the reality Oregon families are facing every day—thousands of Oregon families—when we are a State (and a Nation) with the absolute means to do better. To elevate and support, to care for families and children above all else.

It's easy to feel powerless in the face of overwhelming obstacles and red tape and endless tragedy, but we hold the power to change this, and make this right. We know this is a targeted and proven tax credit that works. It has changed lives, it will change lives, and colleagues, this is a policy that will save lives.

Please join me in supporting HB 3235.