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To: Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Scharf and Nguyen, and Members of the [House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services](#)

Re: Support of House Bill 3235, the Oregon Kids' Credit

Date: 2/27/2023

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic. Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in **Senate Districts 13 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 37 and 42-50.**

We support HB 3235 and we ask that you support the Oregon Kids' Credit too. The Oregon Kids' Credit is a \$1,200 refundable tax credit for each child that a low-income or working family claims on their taxes. It would provide financial support to about half a million Oregonians, including more than 200,000 children in our communities.

Analysis by the Oregon Center for Public Policy shows that while the Oregon Kids' Credit would help children in every county and every corner of Oregon, children in rural Oregon stand to benefit disproportionately. While the credit would benefit children of every racial and ethnic group in the state, estimates by the Oregon Center for Public Policy suggest Black, Indigenous, and Latino children would disproportionately benefit. This is one of the most direct ways to invest in communities to meet their own needs.

One of the key focuses of our work is building economic resilience in our community. Every program and service we provide helps families get a step closer to economic stability, but each year we continue to see forces that push us backwards. Rising rents, inflation, stagnant wages, are all compounding factors that slow economic growth in our community. By pairing investments in community based services with direct investments in families financial wellbeing, like the Oregon Kids' Credit, the state can begin to alleviate poverty and increase economic stability for the kids who need it most.

Please say yes to HB 3235, the Oregon Kids' Credit!