

February 12, 2025

To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's Children's Agenda
Subject: Support for HB 2958, Strengthening the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO). I am writing on behalf of The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, which brings together a coalition of more than 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing in Oregon. HB 2958 is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

As advocates for Oregon's children and families, we have seen firsthand how working families across Oregon are struggling with economic insecurity. The most effective way to address this is to give these families more money to afford rent, food, and other basic needs.

In 2021, 3.8% of Oregon children were living in poverty (Annie E. Casey Kids Count Dashboard). The EITC already lifts tens of thousands of hard-working families out of poverty and strengthening it will have an even larger impact on reducing poverty and economic insecurity. Research shows that tax credits such as the EITC improve child health, boost school performance, promote college enrollment, and increase earnings when children become adults (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities).

Strengthening Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit would be an effective and efficient way to deliver resources to families struggling to make ends meet, which would benefit local economies throughout the state.

We appreciate the work you do every day for Oregonians and we strongly urge you to continue to support Oregon's working families by voting YES on HB 2958.

Sincerely,
Our Children Oregon
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Baby Blues Connection
Children's Institute
Housing Oregon
Latino Network
Next Up Action Fund
Nurse-Family Partnership
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon PTA
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland
Vision To Learn
Washington County Kids