

February 20, 2025

Dear House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of HB 2991, the additional appropriation for the Tax Infrastructure Grant Program at ODHS.

My name is Daniel McAvoy and I am the President and CEO of MoneyWise Oregon. I have been involved with tax preparation services in Oregon for the past 6 years. Over that time, I have witnessed firsthand the impact these programs have had on the people in our communities. Every year, numerous single mothers, low wage-earning families, and elderly persons are served by our program. These taxpayers use the refunds they receive to pay rent, buy clothes for their children, put food on the table, and cover other crucial living expenses. One young couple I remember even had enough of a refund to use as a downpayment on their first home.

Last tax season our program prepared and filed over 2100 tax returns resulting in over \$3 million in refunds for our community.

We are located in the Coos Bay/North Bend area, and in Roseburg. This year we are making efforts to provide services to the entire Oregon Coast – from Seaside to Gold Beach – and down to Grants Pass. If this bill passes, we will use the additional funds to grow our service area to include the entire area west of the valley and begin to move into Eastern Oregon. I believe at this point nearly 80% of Oregon's rural areas are without free tax preparation services of any kind.

We have grown our service output every year. But as yet we have only just scratched the surface. There is so much more to do, and so many more Oregonians in need of assistance. We desperately need to stabilize our funding in order to put plans into place that will substantially increase our reach into rural Oregon.

That is why I am urging you to support House Bill 2991. Our work has only just begun. Please allow us to continue this crucial service for the health of our local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel McAvoy
President & Ceo
MoneyWise Oregon, Inc