

Whitney Marcelino
Testimony Regarding Oregon Senate Bill 694
February 16, 2025

Chair Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chair Dick Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

My name is Whitney Marcelino, and I am a resident of Independence, Oregon, and a mother of four. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 694, which seeks to modify the Child Tax Credit by increasing both the maximum amount of the credit and the income eligibility limits.

I know firsthand how critical and helpful the support of this tax credit is for families. Over the years, it has provided my family with much-needed financial relief, helping us catch up on bills, cover essential vehicle maintenance, and ensure our children have school clothes and other necessities. As parents, we work hard to give our children the best possible quality of life, and for many families, this tax credit is one of the few financial resources that make that possible.

I felt compelled to testify today to ensure that our local government sees and hears middle- and lower-middle-class families. Financial struggles can persist even in two-income households, and for many, seeking assistance can be hindered by feelings of pride or shame. However, I believe that by recognizing each other's struggles and working together, we can foster a community that uplifts and supports one another.

Thank you, Chair Reynolds, for taking the time to consider my testimony. I appreciate your attention to this critical issue and commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Sincerely,
Whitney Marcelino