

LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE SENATOR
District 17



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 20th, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds and I serve as State Senator for West Portland, Cathedral Park, and communities in Northeast Washington County. I also work as a pediatrician, serving children and their families in my district for over 20 years.

I am here today in strong support of HB 2991. I talk a lot about upstream solutions and the importance of investing in prevention. This bill is the perfect example of an upstream investment that will have huge payoffs for Oregon residents.

We spend a lot of time fiddling over the details of the tax credits we implement and the tax code we write. I was enormously proud of passing our first ever Child Tax Credit in 2023! But the reality is that nothing we put in the tax code matters if folks don't file their taxes. This hurts our lowest-income individuals the most, since they are often the ones who have the most to gain from tax credits like the Oregon Kids Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and others – but are also the least likely to file and tax return and tap into these credits which the legislature has already approved for them.

This bill helps us realize the vision we set forth by passing the tax code we have now – and will help give access to vital tax relief for many Oregon families. This is an upstream solution to ensure that Oregonians can access other upstream solutions.

I acknowledge that this bill seeks to mitigate a frustrating problem in the US - tax preparation is all too difficult for

I am grateful for the work of advocates and community partners in pushing for this expansion of the Tax Infrastructure Grant Program, and I urge the committee's support.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD
Senate District 17

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