



To: Chair Nathanson and Vice-Chairs Werner Reschke and Walters and all the members of the House Committee On Revenue

Re: Support HB 2958

Date: 2/18/2025

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 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

As costs continue to rise, many working families in Oregon are facing greater economic uncertainty. Strengthening the EITC through HB 2958 is a thoughtful and direct way to provide meaningful relief to these families, helping them manage daily expenses and build a more secure future.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is Oregon's most effective tool in the fight against poverty, directly benefiting approximately 250,000 working families each year. For families that we serve, this vital credit provides essential support in meeting the basic costs of living. Currently, the EITC can be worth up to \$900, which helps cover expenses like food, utilities, and other necessary bills. For many families, this amount can make a meaningful difference.

This experience is shared by many hardworking families in Oregon. One Latino Network staff member had this to say about the impacts of EITC:

"I speak from personal experience when I say how impactful the EITC can be. My father is a nursery worker, and the sole provider for my baby brother and mother. Despite working long hours—often over 50 hours a week, including overtime to make his income afloat. With rising costs like electricity, food, car insurance, and rent, it's difficult for him to keep up, no matter how many hours he puts in. Last year he received EITC and was able to use that money to pay for living expenses."



However, it's important to acknowledge that some of Oregon's most vulnerable communities—particularly Latino and Asian-American immigrant families—are disproportionately excluded from the EITC. These families contribute greatly to Oregon's economy as taxpayers, yet they often face additional challenges, such as underemployment and language barriers, that make it harder to access support like the EITC. Strengthening the EITC would ensure that more families—especially those who are often overlooked—receive the financial assistance they earned.

Oregon's EITC is set to expire without legislative action this session. House Bill 2958 is a critical step in renewing and strengthening the EITC. Not only does it renew the EITC, but it also more than doubles the match of the federal credit, which would provide more substantial support to families struggling with the rising cost of living. The bill expands eligibility to all childless workers, regardless of age, which is important for younger Oregonians entering the workforce and older Oregonians who continue working. Additionally, HB 2958 includes provisions that would allow for regular advance payments, ensuring that families can receive their support in a timely manner when they need it most.

The EITC has already proven to be an effective tool in helping families lift themselves out of poverty. By strengthening it, we can build on this success, improving the well-being of children and helping families remain financially stable. In addition, research shows that strengthening the EITC can have positive economic effects across Oregon, with benefits for local businesses and communities.

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We respectfully urge you to vote YES HB 2958 and continue Oregon's commitment to supporting working families.