

To: House Committee on Revenue  
From: Eleanor Ponomareff, Talent City Council President  
Subject: Supporting HB 2958, Earned Income Tax Credit expansion  
Date: February 26, 2025

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

I am a member of the Talent City Council, currently serving as Council President, speaking on behalf of myself and my constituents in strong support of expanding the EITC.

Many of the people who live in my city are low income, a good portion are fire survivors, and many are both. One of the challenges we hear most often is how difficult it is for families to navigate bureaucratic obstacles to get the economic help they need to make ends meet, even when that help is available. The repeated refrain is that securing available economic support is almost a job in itself.

In Talent, about 15 percent of our residents live at or below the poverty level, compared to about 12 percent statewide, according to the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimate<sup>1</sup>. That figure is even higher for older adults. Similarly, HUD data classifies more than 53 percent of Talent residents as low or moderate income.<sup>2</sup>

We saw during COVID how an expanded Child Tax Credit dramatically reduced the number of children in poverty. Nationwide, the EITC has lifted an average of 8 million people out of poverty per year from 2017 to 2021, according to the US Census bureau as reported by the National League of Cities. The benefits are undeniable. Increased financial independence makes our residents healthier, happier, and better able to contribute to our local economies.

Providing direct financial support to families, single adults, and seniors will empower them to participate more fully in our community and economy—without adding more red tape. People know best what they need, and HB 2958 offers a straightforward, effective way to improve financial security for thousands of Oregonians.

I urge you to support this common-sense, highly effective policy that will bring measurable and effective relief to many of my constituents.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Ponomareff  
Talent City Council President  
Talent, Oregon

<sup>1</sup>2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates,  
[https://data.census.gov/profile/Talent\\_city\\_Oregon?q=160XX00US4172500#income-and-poverty](https://data.census.gov/profile/Talent_city_Oregon?q=160XX00US4172500#income-and-poverty)

<sup>2</sup> Low-Moderate Income Data for CDBG Area-Benefit Activities (2016-2020 ACS-Based), HUD Office of Community Planning and Development  
[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/279eca0222754f8a954bbf8cf995a1a3#data\\_s=id%3AdataSource\\_2-LMISD\\_layers\\_6936%3A14578](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/279eca0222754f8a954bbf8cf995a1a3#data_s=id%3AdataSource_2-LMISD_layers_6936%3A14578)