



March 2, 2021

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2819

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Reschke and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Leave No Worker Behind: Including ITIN Filers in Oregon's EITC is a 2021 Children's Agenda priority. We support HB 2819 to strengthen the economic stability of workers by raising their take-home pay and helping their families pay for basic living expenses. The EITC currently excludes certain workers, many deemed essential, across agriculture, food processing, retail, and construction sectors. These essential workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to racial inequities across the state.

HB 2819 is an opportunity to address an important issue of racial equity within our revenue system and increase the flow of dollars to under-compensated, immigrant communities throughout Oregon.

Currently, Oregon's EITC is based on eligibility for the federal EITC, which discriminates against families who would otherwise qualify for the EITC based on their earned income. This includes 34,000 Oregon families—predominantly Latino and Asian Americans—who file their

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). Under current policy, the EITC is denied to everyone in a household if just one member files their taxes with an ITIN. Passing HB 2819 means that nearly 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children.

Expanding the EITC will support living standards and reduce the adverse effects of Oregon families living in poverty by providing a refundable tax credit that they can use to buy or repair a car so they have reliable transportation to work and school, catch up on bills, and invest in their children. EITC supports 4 of every 10 Oregon children, and supports improved health outcomes, better school performance, higher rates of graduation and college attendance and higher earnings as adults. HB 2819 will advance these contributions and improve economic stability throughout the state.

HB 2819 has the potential to invest in all workers, no matter their place of origin, so they can earn enough to adequately take care of their families. Families deserve to be compensated enough to meet their basic necessities, advance life opportunities, and improve educational outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge your support of HB 2819.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

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View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda