



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

June 10, 2021

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2819A

Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Chris Coughlin. I am the Policy and Advocacy Director at Our Children Oregon. 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. We convene 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.

Our Children Oregon is part of the Leave No Worker Behind campaign, a coalition of over 50 organizations supporting HB 2819A. We have submitted a fact sheet listing the coalition partners, and it is posted on OLIS

HB 2819A: Leave No Worker Behind: Including ITIN Filers in Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a 2021 Children's Agenda priority. We support HB 2819A to strengthen the economic stability of workers and their families. 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 2819A 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

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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EITC based on their earned income. This includes 34,000 Oregon families—predominantly Latinx and Asian Americans—who file their 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 2819A means that nearly 85,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children. This means that 1 of every 10 of Oregon’s children are currently excluded from benefitting from the EITC, and HB 2819A can change that.

Expanding the EITC will support basic household expenses and reduce the adverse effects of Oregon families living in poverty by providing a refundable tax credit. The EITC has been shown to lead to improved health outcomes, better school performance, higher rates of graduation and college attendance, and higher earnings as adults for those children in households who access the EITC.

HB 2819A 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 able to meet their basic necessities, advance life opportunities, and improve educational outcomes.

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

On behalf of the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director

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