

Thursday April 18, 2013

Co-chairs Sen. Burdick and Rep. Barnhart and members of the Joint Committee on Tax Credits, thank you for the opportunity to testify. For the record, my name is Eduardo Angulo, chairman and executive director of the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality. Our member organizations are PCUN, Oregon Farmworkers Union, CAUSA, the largest pro-immigrants' right coalition in the Northwest, Mano a Mano Family Center, Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), Willamette University Latino Students and our Oregon Parent Organizing Project.

We are also members of the Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OEAA). The Alliance is an umbrella organization of over 25 African American, Latino, the 9 Tribes of Oregon Governments and Pacific and Micronesian and Asian Communities.

Our Coalition's organizations leaders and members and allies are all in full support of the HB 2980 to extend the tax credit for farmworkers housing around Oregon because ALL children deserve an opportunity to succeed in school and life, which is tied to having a stable home.

The Governor's aspirational goal of the 40-40-20 by 2025 and the Oregon Education Investment Board's recent approval of the Equity Lens strategies to "overcome challenges associated with race, ethnicity, poverty and language" give our farmworking families a renewed hope for their future and that their children will have a chance to reach their full potential.

Currently we have 60,000 children who are ELLs throughout our state schools.

We need more decent and secure housing for the thousands of famworking families and children who are waiting for them to be built so we can guarantee that more children live in a decent house will come to school every day ready to learn.

We cannot expect to reach our 40-40-20 North Start aspirational goal by 2025 for all our children if they don't have their most primary need covered: decent and secure housing. Please support HB 2980 and extension of the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit.

Please support safe, decent, and affordable housing for our children.

Thank You!