

March 1, 2013

Chair Burdick, members of the committee . . .

For the record, my name is Julienne Harrison. I live at 17532 NW Springville Road in Portland.

I am here today in support of SB 326.

As a divorced mother of three, I have been able to use the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, I have received to provide for my family.

Because of EITC, I have been able to offset critical school expenses like books and supplies for my children that are not covered through waivers from the school board. This tax credit has also helped me provide enriching learning opportunities for my children, such as Outdoor School and summer camps. Without EITC, there is no way I would be able to afford these opportunities for my children to learn and grow.

Most importantly, it is used to support my family while I further my college education and complete my degree. If it were not for EITC, the crucible that is college with children would be more difficult and challenging.

Without access to EITC, I could see my family becoming more dependent on scholarships, or having to forgo extra-curricular activities altogether. These activities promote a healthy environment for social interaction, social cues, and team building. These concepts are important to adolescent development, reducing the chances of involvement in the juvenile justice system. This helps me to educate my daughters to become positive, productive members of society, and helps our community take one step closer in closing the circle of poverty that exists for many families today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Julienne Harrison