



Partners for a
Hunger-Free Oregon

Ending hunger before it begins.

To: Human Services and Housing Committee
From: Patti Whitney-Wise, Executive Director
Subject: Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
Date: March 2, 2015

The prosperity of our state depends on our ability to cultivate the health and well being of the next generation. When we invest wisely in our kids and families, we create stronger opportunities for families to be healthy and productive.

Today, too many children and families in our communities struggle to survive. These families need basic supports so they can take steps towards a more stable life. We can remove the barriers they face by making choices to protect our basic family support services. We all need food on the table and a roof over our head in order to pursue opportunities. In addition, job training and supports like childcare and help with transportation can have a long-lasting impact on a family's ability to move forward.

Supports like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) combine to provide stepping-stones toward economic stability. TANF helps families meet their most basic needs, protects children, and helps parents get back to work through employment training and supportive services. ERDC helps parents keep their current employment and keeps kids safe in quality childcare settings.

Today, as you hear testimony on the EITC, please consider the following:

- **EITC Targets Assistance and Economic Stimulus**
Low-income families often live paycheck to paycheck. Funds from the EITC will be spent on food, housing, healthcare, utilities, and other basic necessities. The EITC helps families make ends meet.
- **EITC Provides pathways out of poverty**
An increase to Oregon's EITC from 8% to 12% of the federal credit will mean that most workers aren't taxed on wages below the federal poverty level. We believe in creating pathways of opportunity for Oregon families.
- **EITC Helps Make Ends Meet**
Over 200,000 working Oregon families, most with children, would see a boost in their take-home pay.

Please work to pass an expanded EITC to help families make ends meet while providing a pathway out of poverty by increasing their household income.