



Partners *for a*
Hunger-Free Oregon

Ending hunger before it begins.

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Subject: Support Improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (HB 2068)

Date: April 15, 2015

Happy tax day.

Let's make this a happier tax day for Oregon's working families by supporting working parents with young kids by passing improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (HB 2068 and the accompanying amendment).

Investing in families with infants and toddlers makes everyone better off. Emerging research shows us what common sense has always told us - that investments in early childhood have significant positive outcomes throughout a child's life.

This proposal would raise the EITC for families with children under two. The raise is modest, yet significant. A working family with an infant and a toddler could see up to a \$332 increase in their credit. That increase can help a family with new essentials such as diapers, a car seat, a crib, baby clothes, or spit-up rags.

To be clear, there is much more we could do to invest in the well being of young families. The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not ensure paid parental leave when a child is born. Access to quality child care and preschool remains unaffordable for many. Far too many parents must work two or three jobs just to make ends meet.

Yet anything we can do to support families with infants and toddlers is a step in the right direction. Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon recommends passage of HB 2068.