

House Committee on Revenue  
February 4, 2016  
House Bill 4120 Relating to Taxation

Chair Barnhart and members of the Committee,

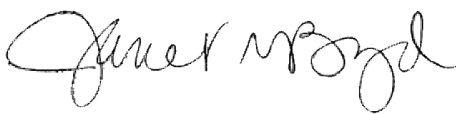
Neighborhood Partnerships' mission is to create opportunity for Oregonians with low incomes. We believe that communities are stronger and more resilient when more of our neighbors are able to navigate financial bumps in the road and continue on their journey to prosperity. Our work is centered on building systemic, long-term change, thereby maximizing our impact on the lives of people with low incomes. We believe in an Oregon full of financially resilient households where opportunity and prosperity are shared widely and accessible to all.

We ask your support for increasing the size of the state earned income tax credit (EITC) to help families achieve financial security and build assets.

The EITC puts money back into the pockets of working families who need it most, and any increase in its value makes a difference for families struggling to pay their bills and make the rent. Because the EITC is based on earnings, it encourages work, and then provides a substantial refund that can be used to build assets. Families can save for a rainy day, a car to commute to work, or college tuition. The EITC makes saving for the future possible for workers with low and moderate wages. Many recipients use the EITC to pay off debts, another way to allow them to begin building assets. Because it is targeted at families with children, the EITC has intergenerational and lifelong benefits that come from strengthening economic security for working families.

Neighborhood Partnerships urges your support for increasing the amount of the state EITC. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Janet Byrd  
Executive Director, Neighborhood Partnerships