

Providence Health & Services
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February 4, 2016

The Honorable Phil Barnhart
Chair, House Committee on Revenue
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Increase percentage of earned income tax credit

Dear Representative Barnhart and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services' commitment to fulfilling our Mission extends far beyond the doors of our hospitals and clinics. We are working with community and business organizations to identify and remove causes of persistent poverty and advocate for public policies that promote social justice.

As part of the work to lead these efforts within the community, I currently serve as Chair of the Oregon Business Council's Poverty Reduction Task Force. The task force has set an ambitious goal of reducing the poverty rate to below 10 percent by 2020. A goal Providence is extremely excited to support, and one that is made more possible if action is taken to increase the percentage of EITC allowed.

As one of our country's most historically effective anti-poverty measures, credited with successfully reducing income inequality and lifting children out of poverty – we must do more as a state to maximize the EITC. Today, although one in five Oregon children live in poverty, we only allow 8% of the federal EITC. At a minimum, by increasing the percentage allowed for families with children under six years we have an opportunity to improve the lives of countless struggling families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue; we hope you'll join Providence in support of legislation that increases the percentage of EITC allowed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner
Chief Executive Officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon