



February 3, 2016

Representative Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Human Services and Housing Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4144 EITC and Child Care Credits Utilization

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of City of Beaverton, I am writing in strong support of HB 4144. Our volunteer tax assistance program, in partnership with CASH Oregon and AARP Tax Aide, provides free tax assistance to our community members and encourages eligible low and middle income families to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and Child Care Credits.

This past year, 60 IRS-certified volunteers helped more than 2,000 families prepare and submit their tax refunds at the Beaverton site, which resulted in \$2.4 million in tax refunds. Of that amount, \$729,557 was due to the EITC and provided families with a little more money to use towards their groceries, rent, utilities, and other bills.

For many deserving families, EITC is too often a tax refund opportunity that is completely lost. We want to change that and our goal is to ensure that more of our residents receive the credit so they are able to put it towards anything from buying their first home in Beaverton to paying off student loans.

HB 4144 will provide helpful data to identify demographic groups not utilizing the EITC so we can tailor our outreach strategies to increase awareness of our volunteer tax assistance program. I urge the Committee to pass this important legislation that will help us tackle poverty in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denny Doyle
Mayor