



HOUSING ALLIANCE

May 1, 2017

House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 398A

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Barreto, Vice-Chair Bynum, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for Senate Bill 398A. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than 80 organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices including residents, local jurisdictions, non-profit housing developers, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

The state and federal Earned Income Tax Credits are powerful tools to increase the financial resiliency of Oregon's working families. These credits help families make ends meet and increase housing stability. When families claim the EITC, they have additional resources to afford rent, keep their homes healthy and habitable, and save for the future.

While the benefit of the credit is substantial, one out of four Oregonians does not claim it, meaning our state has one of the lowest participation rates in the country. Increased awareness can help encourage workers to find out if they are eligible and claim the credits, supporting their financial stability. SB 398A offers a simple way to raise awareness by requiring that employers include information about workers' potential eligibility for the EITC with their W-2 forms.

We strongly encourage you to vote in support of SB 398A to increase working Oregonians' participation in the EITC. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Lee', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Lee on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends
211info
A Community Together (Lane County)
Aging in the Gorge
Benton County Health Department
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Energy Project
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners
Evolve Property Management
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest

JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Mainstream Housing, Inc.
Metro
Momentum Alliance
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Christian Voices
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Tenants United
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Urban League of Portland
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services