



*Smart policies for today's families.*

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2830  
Joint Committee on Tax Credits

Submitted by Kate Newhall, Family Forward Oregon

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2830 and the revenue reforms proposed in this measure. As an organization that advocates with and for women and families, we appreciate the work that has been done by this committee, Speaker Kotek and Senator Hass to find a better solution to our budget crisis and raise additional revenues that this state so desperately needs. While we believe this proposal shows significant progress, we don't believe it provides sufficient revenues to adequately fund public services.

Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support women and families, that help them to succeed — both in the workplace and at home. Our mission is to create a family-friendly Oregon where all families can be economically secure and have the time they need to take care of each other. Today, too many families are forced to sacrifice one for the other. **Family Forward supports policies that make economic stability a reality for all women and families in Oregon.** This means ensuring access to quality affordable child care and senior care, food and housing security, living wage jobs with time to care for your family, access to high-quality and comprehensive health care and quality education. None of these things are possible if the legislature doesn't enact game-changing revenue reforms that make investments in these critical services.

Our corporate taxes are currently inadequate and need to be increased. The corporations profiting in our communities should also be required to invest in them by maintaining and growing current investments in key programs that facilitate our state being able to meet the needs of Oregon families.

Oregon's economy is stronger than it has been in years and our unemployment rate is at an all time low, yet too many families are still struggling to make ends meet — particularly mothers. In Oregon, 60 percent of minimum wage workers are women and 23 percent of families with children are headed by a single mother. These are the women and families who can least afford to lose the critical services they depend on for stable housing, health care, child care, food security and so much more.

While we recognize the amount of revenue raised in this proposal is significant, we believe we need significantly more revenue to support the critical services that help lift

working families out of poverty; this revenue proposal is not sufficient to make the kind of game-changing investments in programs, like ERDC, TANF, early education and health care, that are necessary for Oregon families and our future economy. These are the programs that have been shown to lift women and families out of poverty, yet have been dramatically underfunded for far too long. Yet chronic underinvestment in these programs will continue under this revenue proposal.

In times of economic growth, we should be increasing our investments in these valuable programs. We should be growing these programs so more families have a chance to achieve and sustain economic stability. We should be investing in our children and their futures with increased spending on education and other critical supports. That we are even considering cuts to essential programs at a time of economic growth and increasing prosperity for the corporations doing business in Oregon is unconscionable.

We urge you to push for a significant and game changing revenue, so that all families in Oregon are able to thrive.