

Providence Health & Services
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February 27, 2019

The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer
Chair, House Human Services and Housing Committee
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 2139, Increase percentage of earned income tax credit

Dear Representative Keny-Guyer and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services' commitment to fulfilling our Mission extends far beyond the doors of our hospitals and outpatient services. 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 a member of the Oregon Business Council's Poverty Reduction Task Force. This task force has set an ambitious goal of reducing the poverty rate to below 10 percent by 2020. This is a goal which Providence is extremely excited to support, and is one that is more likely to be reached if lawmakers take action through House Bill 2139 to raise the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit.

The EITC is one of our country's most historically effective anti-poverty measures, credited with successfully reducing income inequality and lifting children out of poverty. House Bill 2139 renews the credit, which is set to expire in 2020, and raises it to 20 percent of the federal tax credit – putting Oregon on par with other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue; we hope you'll join Providence in support of House Bill 2139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Vance".

Lisa Vance
Chief Executive Officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon