



February 27th, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer
House Committee on Human Services
and Housing
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Keny-Guyer, members of the committee. For the record my name is Elvyss Argueta a Political and Electoral Strategist for SEIU local 503. SEIU represents over 65,000 workers throughout Oregon, at various state agencies and local governments, including non-profits and care facilities.

I'm writing in support of [HB 2139 \(with -1 Amdt.\)](#)/HB 3028 because expanding Oregon's EITC to 20% of the federal credit from 8% is essential to families across Oregon. And for families with kids under age 3, an expansion of EITC to 25% of the federal credit can make a positive impact in the finances of families with very young children.

The bill helps make the EITC more equitable by extending it to all workers who file a tax return and meet the income threshold, including those who file with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). It is important that EITC work better for Oregon families because the long-term benefits for our state are crucial in reducing the overall poverty rate by at least 10 percent¹.

On behalf our members at SEIU 503, I want to take the time to thank the House Committee on Human Services for taking up this legislation. SEIU is committed to a just and vibrant society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and where all people can provide for themselves and their families. The renewal and raising of the EITC gets us one step closer to this vision.

We look forward to working together to make this a reality.

Sincerely,
Elvyss Argueta

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¹ Bruce D. Meyer, "The Effects of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Recent Reforms," Chapter 5, Tax Policy and the Economy, National Bureau of Economic Research, August 2010, Vol. 24, p. 159, available at <https://www.nber.org/chapters/c11973.pdf>. Also, Hilary W. Hoynes, Ankur J. Patel, Effective Policy for Reducing Inequality? The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Distribution of Income, NBER Working Paper No. 21340, July 2015, pp. 22-28, available at <https://www.nber.org/papers/w21340.pdf>.