



Taking action for basic human needs.



February 27, 2019

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:


I testify today in my role as Co-Chair of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) in support of House Bill 3028 which would increase and expand access to Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit.

HSCO's more than 120 individuals and organizations have tirelessly advocated for and served Oregon's most vulnerable residents for more than three decades. Our members focus on policy development in the areas of health care, human services, housing, education, and other services to Oregonians who are poor, disabled, or otherwise in need of support. The Human Services Coalition of Oregon supports actions that make the appropriation system fair, equitable, and adequate. To further this mission, we adopted specific tax and revenue principles around fairness, adequacy, stability, and transparency. We adopted these principles in the 1990s, and have used them as the foundation upon which we base our position on any revenue proposal

The Earned Income Tax Credit is one of Oregon's most effective ways to bring families out of poverty. By providing families the flexibility to prioritize where to spend the additional money, it empowers them to seek out safer housing, receive overdue medical services, or pay off debts. Studies show that children in households who receive the EITC are more likely to be healthy and more likely to continue their education. The EITC benefits the communities served by HSCO individuals and organizations; our members would greatly benefit from the additional cash provided by an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit to afford the necessities they depend on to survive.

The EITC is one of the few tax policies that invest in Oregonians and should be not only renewed but expanded. Please support HB 3028. Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,


Jeremiah Rigsby, Co-Chair

HSCO Co-Chairs
Leslie Sutton Leslie.Sutton@ocdd.org 503-780-7937
Jeremiah Rigsby Rigsbyj@careoregon.org 503-382-7760