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May 6, 2019

RE: Support for HB 3028 – Renew and Raise the EITC

Chair Nathanson and Representatives,

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the most effective and least costly poverty-reducing initiatives for working families. It encourages and rewards employment while also recognizing that many jobs don't pay enough to meet families' basic needs.

This support is especially crucial for families with young children. We now know that children experience their most profound cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth in the first few years of life. By the time children reach their third birthday, their brains are 80 percent developed. The quality of children's early experiences during this crucial period of growth sets the foundation for all future learning and lifelong health.

Working parents who are trying to support their infant or young child's healthy development often cannot do so when they are struggling with the adverse effects of poverty. The funds are incredibly helpful for working parents struggling to meet rising housing, child care, food, and other expenses.

The EITC is proven to boost long-term outcomes for kids, including improving health, school performance, high school and college graduation rates. Each of these translates to improved adult earnings.

Children's Institute encourages your support for HB 3028 because it is a smart investment for Oregon's children. These benefits and others help families, reduce costs for the state, and improve Oregon's economy. We urge you to support HB 3028.

Sincerely,

Elena Rivera

Senior Health Policy and Program Advisor

Children's Institute

Children's Institute's mission is to ensure every child in Oregon is prepared for school and life. We champion early investments in kids and families from prenatal to age eight to boost education and health outcomes for all of Oregon's children.