



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2819
House Committee on Revenue
March 2, 2021

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Werner Reschke and members of the committee:

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2819.

CASA of Oregon's mission is deeply rooted in service to farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Oregon. We seek to improve the lives of Oregonians by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities and programs that increase families' financial well-being. We are a nonprofit community development organization that works to support thriving communities by working with local organizations.

For more than 30 years, CASA has had at its core **service to farmworkers**. Whether it is providing housing in the community, helping farmers fix up their labor camps or ensuring families' access to our Individual Development Account program, our focus has always been on improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The farmworker community is disproportionately impacted by inequitable conditions that result in disparate opportunities based on an individual's legal status. Under current policy, the EITC is denied to everyone in a household if one member files their taxes with an ITIN. Passing HB 2819 means that 90,000 U.S. citizens living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children.

For too long, we talk about the importance of our essential farmworkers. Yet our policies don't match our reliance on ensuring they are supported like other Oregonians. These essential workers pay taxes but don't reap any on the benefits of being taxpayers. HB 2819 is a small step to making life better for farmworker families.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2819. Thank you for your time and consideration.