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March 2, 2021

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Members of the Committee,

211info is pleased to offer our strong support for HB 2819. We are committed to helping Oregonians claim financial independence and wellbeing through the Earned Income Tax Credit, and for expanding this credit to working families that have not previously qualified due to filing status.

Our work connects social supports to families to help reduce poverty and create brighter futures for children. 211info provides our state with an online resource database of over 42,000 social service programs. Our contact center provides Oregonians access to referrals via phone, text, email, and mobile app. Our data analytics also offers valuable trend reporting to agencies across the state.

In the past year, we have worked at the forefront of social service referral throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial impacts. We have received 340,000 contacts for our database alone, which translates to over 75,000 contacts related to paying bills for essential needs like rent and utilities. Of our recorded unmet needs across our state, eight of the top ten are directly related to financial assistance. Most people that contact 211info are living at or below the federal poverty level; the money offered through the EITC will not only provide much needed relief for financial obligations, but also offer investment for a brighter future for these workers and their children.

Furthermore, our data shows that a disproportionate amount of this need comes from non-white families, whose access to tax credits such as the EITC has historically been limited due to filing status. By expanding the EITC credit to all workers, HB 2819 will ensure that the money from this benefit will go where it is needed most—directly into the hands of working families that have been most affected by wildfires, power outages, and COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. 211info stands ready to provide any additional information or data that helps facilitate this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Herman', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dan Herman
Chief Executive Officer