

**Maricel Polino**

Good afternoon Chair and members of this committee, my name is Maricela Polino. I live in Multnomah county I am a volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank. I am addressing you today to request your support with HB 2819. I am a member of the community and I am one of the individuals being affected because I use an ITIN number. I have been affected even though my children were born and raised in this country and are excluded from the EITC benefits. We also have been highly affected by COVID-19 as the rest of our community.

I am not able to offer my family the opportunity of a better quality of life or the access to receive what it is fear to cover essential needs. Not only my family but many families in Oregon have been and continue being affected and are suffering the effects of the pandemic and the unequal racial systems where there is an absence of equity.

I am requesting you to consider our affected community of essential workers dedicated to offer a brighter future to their families and the community at large in the state. Many of us work double shifts sometimes and receive the minimum wage. Because we have an ITIN number we are excluded from the EITC benefit. We work hard wishing to move forward and to contribute to the economy of this country. I ask you to reflect and support with passing The HB 2819 that would benefit thousands of workers, families and children in our state.

Thank you.