



March 1, 2021

Oregon House of Representatives
Salem, Oregon 97301
House Revenue Committee

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham and Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW), I submit this letter in support of HB 2819, a bill to allow people who file income tax returns using an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) rather than a Social Security number, to be eligible for Oregon's earned income tax credit (EITC).

Filing with an ITIN is the mechanism available to law-abiding immigrant residents of Oregon, regardless of immigration status, to fulfill their tax obligations under Oregon law.

The EITC is a very effective tool for lifting individuals and families out of poverty. It provides assistance to workers with low to moderate income, encouraging and rewarding work while gradually phasing out as economic independence is achieved. The EITC is available to individuals, but its primary focus is on providing support for families with children. However, an entire household, including children who may be US citizens, is excluded from EITC eligibility if either spouse files using an ITIN.

ITIN tax filers are fully contributing members of our Oregon community. They respond to the same requirements to support our government and its services through their taxes as other residents. They and their children should have access to the EITC support available to US citizens. As in many other situations, the impacts of denying access to this support fall heavily on low-income women and their children. Oregon NOW supports this bill in accordance with our goals of achieving economic and racial justice.

Please vote in favor of this legislation to extend Oregon's EITC benefits to these residents.

Respectfully,

Christine Chin Ryan
President, Oregon NOW

H. Rebecca Callison
Legislative Chair, Oregon NOW