

Testimony in Support of HB 4117

Judy Strand

February 3, 2022

Chair Williams, Vice Chairs Ruiz and Sharf, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4117. My name is Judy Strand and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Metropolitan Family Service. My colleague Magaly Garcia also provided verbal testimony today and some of the data she discussed at today's hearing is included below.

We are writing to offer support for House Bill 4117. As one of the [largest](#) providers of free, low income tax support in Oregon, we have a lot to say about how to help [tens of thousands](#) of people receive important tax credits. Tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the recent economic stimulus can have a dramatic impact on [poverty reduction](#), especially the [reduction of childhood poverty](#) as evidenced by the [ways families are spending the CTC](#).

MFS CASH Oregon has been providing free tax preparation for low income Oregonians since 2006 and we know that HB4117 would empower other organizations to replicate the results we have been able to achieve. For instance, last tax season, MFS CASH Oregon helped over 4000 people complete their tax returns valued at over \$8.2 million dollars. We did this with the help of 216 IRS certified volunteers donating thousands of hours.

Despite these great results, we received over 22,000 calls to our tax hotline, three quarters of which we were not able to help.

Every Oregon family eligible for these credits deserves access to free tax preparation and navigation resources so they can access these credits. Metropolitan Family Service urges your support for HB 4117.

Sincerely,



Judy Strand, CEO

Metropolitan Family Service