



To: House Committee on Rules
From: Jenny Pool Radway, Executive Director of Causa
Date: February 17, 2022
Re: Support for HB 4157

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenny Pool Radway and I am the executive director of Causa. Causa works to improve the lives of Latinx immigrants and their families in Oregon through advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and civic engagement.

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote yes on HB 4157, which would provide one-time cost of living payments to low-income Oregonians. At Causa, many of the community members with whom we work are low-income and struggle to meet their basic needs. We frequently received questions about accessing crucial social services, including food, rent, and utility assistance. As inflation increases and costs of living rise, our communities are suffering from stagnant wages, disappearing pandemic-era social programs, and a general lack of financial opportunity and support. A one-time \$600 payment would make a huge difference to a number of the people with whom we work, and would benefit more than a quarter of a million Oregon residents. This bill would be especially helpful for our communities who live in rural parts of the state, which have been hit hardest by rising costs of living and had some of the highest percentages of workers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2020.

We also strongly support the automatic nature of this payment. Many of our community members, especially those who are older and/or do not speak English, struggle to navigate complicated forms for accessing social and financial support. Having the payment be distributed without individuals having to apply not only reduces administrative hassle and cost but will also mean that many more Oregonians in need can access these essential funds.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to show your support for Oregonians in need of economic support and vote yes on HB 4157.

Thank you,

Jenny Pool Radway