

**Testimony of Anthony Castañeda, Policy Manager
On behalf of Latino Network
In Support of HB 4157
House Committee on Rules**

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Fahey, and Members of the Committee:

Latino Network appreciates the opportunity to write in favor of HB 4157 to support Oregon's essential workers who helped put food on the table and keep the lights on throughout the global pandemic, wildfires, historic heat waves, and ice storms. This bill will lead to more than a quarter million Oregonians getting much-needed payments to help deal with the rising cost of living.

Latino Network is a nonprofit serving youth and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Our organization provides transformative services to more than 10,000 youth, families, and community members in multiple areas including education, family stability, housing support, juvenile justice, legal navigation, and advocacy.

HB 4157 will distribute funds to Oregonians who claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on their 2020 income tax returns by April 2022. In Multnomah County, 11.3% of the population claimed the EITC. Moreover, 8.5% of tax filers claimed the credit in Clackamas County. In Washington County, 8.9% of eligible residents claimed the EITC. Oregon currently ranks among the lowest when looking at the EITC claim rate.

According to the [Oregon Center for Public Policy](#), Oregon families are missing out on an estimated \$84 million in federal EITC dollars in 2018 — money that did not enter Oregon's economy. HB 4157 may boost our numbers and bring in additional unclaimed federal tax credits.

HB 4157 puts cash directly in the hands of hardworking Oregonians and their families. This is a win-win for business and families. Using existing data from the Department of Revenue will ensure payments are distributed quickly and efficiently. Eligible Oregonians will receive cost of living support as early as June this year.

This will benefit low-income workers who will automatically qualify for these payments without going through additional hurdles like filling out applications. Payments will be excluded from state taxable income. Keeping these payments at \$600 will prevent them from being subject to federal taxes. This is similar to a model used by both California and New Mexico.

Latino Network asks you to vote YES on HB 4157 to support low-wage workers and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.