

February 3, 2022

Chair Anna Williams  
Vice-Chair Ricki Ruiz  
Vice-Chair Anna Scharf  
Members of the House Committee On Human Services

**Support House Bill 4117 – Expand Culturally Specific and Responsive Outreach to Low-Income Families About Federal Benefits**

Dear Chair Anna Williams, Vice-Chair Ricki Ruiz, Vice-Chair Anna Scharf, and members of the House Committee On Human Services,

Stand for Children is proud to support House Bill 4117, which seeks to improve participation in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program with a \$4 million investment.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has the potential to be incredibly effective at lifting families from poverty and providing them with financial stability. However, Oregon ranks third lowest in the country for EITC participation. In 2016, the year with the most recent available data, **only one in four eligible families used the credit. These families missed out on \$137 million in state and federal credits.**

**We urge you to vote YES on House Bill 4117**, which enables culturally specific and responsive service organizations to help low-income clients become aware of benefits, navigate the system, and file returns. \$4 million in short session legislative funding to the Oregon Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency Program would allow organizations to help eligible Oregonians capture critically needed and available federal benefits.

Thank you,

Toya Fick

*Executive Director, Stand for Children Oregon*