

February 27, 2023

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services  
From: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda  
RE: Support for HB 3235, Oregon Kids' Credit

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3235. My name is Marsh M Santoro, and I live in Fairview, Oregon.

I'm writing to support HB 3235: The Oregon Kids' Credit Act. HB 3235 is a 2023 Children's Agenda priority concept. Economic insecurity and the escalating cost of raising children in Oregon have caused many households to struggle to afford rent, food, and other basic needs. Since the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) expansion's expiration, many more children are at risk of falling deeper into poverty- disproportionately children of color and low-income families. Federal aid programs like the CTC have gone a long way in reducing economic burdens among low-income families across our state.

HB 3225 would create a refundable tax credit of \$1,200 per eligible child per year to help Oregon families struggling with the increasing cost of childrearing, make Oregon families who file taxes eligible considering meeting the income requirements, and lift more than 200,000 children or about three in 10 children in Oregon out of poverty.

I have 40 plus years as a Professional Child Care Provider and am a Child advocate still.. And even when I was working and raising my boys it took one parents whole paycheck if not more just for daycare. I can't even imagine how parents are coping with rising cost of food, gas, rent, school supplies, all the necessities of life and then daycare on top of it all. Yes a Child Tax Credit is desperately needed for our struggling families especially those of color and marginalized. Please support this, thank you.

Sincerely Always,  
Marsh M Santoro