

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Barnes, LCSW and I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2958 to renew and strengthen Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit.

I have been a practicing Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oregon for many years. I have also been working in direct service and advocacy with several faith-based organizations in the Portland area in the pursuit of alleviating poverty.

The Earned Income Tax Credit has proven to be an effective tool to help alleviate poverty and the growing disparity of wealth and income. It is known that nearly 50% of those employed do not earn a living wage.

I strongly urge support and passage of this very important and valuable legislation.

Thank-you,

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