



February 27, 2025

**To:** House Committee on Revenue

**Re:** Support for HB 2598

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

The Coalition of Communities of Color respectfully submits this testimony **supporting House Bill 2958, which would renew and strengthen Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit.**

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is a member-based non-profit that advocates for communities of color to receive equitable resources. By working together with 18 culturally specific member organizations, each with its unique mission, CCC is devoted to coalescing the voices of Oregon's BIPOC communities.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the largest anti-poverty program in the Oregon tax code, helps about 250,000 working families. Oregon's EITC is a vital tool for lifting Oregonians out of poverty while reducing racial and gender disparities in income, particularly for women of color.

CCC member organizations serving African, African American, Asian, Latine, Middle Eastern, North African, Native American, Pacific Islander, and immigrant and refugee communities have seen the transformative impacts of this tax credit for low-income taxpayers. Many members have been at the frontlines of providing tax services by partnering with the State of Oregon to ensure these communities can benefit from Oregon's EITC.

Without legislative action this session, Oregon's EITC will sunset, abruptly ending a critical source of support for Oregon families. Importantly, HB 2958 not only renews Oregon's EITC but more than doubles the match of the federal credit provided by the state, helping families meet the rising cost of living, expanding eligibility to all childless workers regardless of their age, and allowing the state to pay the EITC out in regular advance payments.

Communities of color across Oregon are struggling with economic insecurity and uncertainty, and a direct tool to address these challenges already exists in the EITC, giving families more money to afford rent, food, and other basic needs. Strengthening Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit would be an effective and efficient way to deliver resources to families struggling to make ends meet.

Please support Oregon's communities of color and advance HB 2958.

Sincerely,

Alex Riedlinger, Advocacy Manager  
Coalition of Communities of Color