



## Oregon School Employees Association

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House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee:

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) represents more than 22,000 workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members perform many of the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers throughout the school day.

It's an unfortunate reality that many educators, especially those that work less than full time and less than 12 months per year, struggle to make ends meet for themselves and their families. It's not uncommon for educators to work two or more jobs, especially those who are primary income generators for their households. Which, of course, sounds about the same as the situation for most working families in Oregon.

House Bill (HB) 3028 and the effort to renew and raise Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are critical to working families like the educators that I represent. These are folks who are proud to do their share - much more than their share, in many cases - to support public education and the other good things that we can do with state tax dollars. But we already ask more of working families than wealthy families, relative to total income. The EITC is important not only to individual families who can benefit, but it's essential to keeping some progressivity in our overall tax system.

We should not only renew the EITC to avoid increasing that burden on working families, but we should raise the EITC rates. Renewing and raising the EITC will help support Oregon families as they battle increasing health and housing costs. **We strongly urge this committee to pass HB 3028.**

Thank you for your attention,

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