



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 19, 2016

For More Information, Contact:
Scott Moore (503) 986-1904
scott.moore@state.or.us

Oregon House Votes to Boost Support for Low-Income Families with Young Children
HB 4110 Expands the Earned Income Tax Credit for families with kids under the age of three, builds upon historic vote to raise Oregon's minimum wage

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives voted to expand the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the country.

House Bill 4110, which passed on a bipartisan vote of 54-4, would increase Oregon's EITC match for families with children under the age of three from 8% of the federal credit to 11%.

This boost for low-income families is expected to help approximately 58,000 Oregonians. By specifically targeting low-income families with young children, HB 4110 will provide much-needed support for families who are struggling to pay for child care and other basic needs while also going to work and trying to maintain family stability.

“This approach encourages local economic growth when money is spent within their communities,” says Rep. Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley), who carried the bill on the House floor. “The Earned Income Tax Credit is a way to both help people work their way out of poverty and is a tremendous economic development tool. It is a proven policy that can improve life for hard working, lower income Oregonians.”

HB 4110 builds upon yesterday's historic vote to increase Oregon's minimum wage. According to testimony submitted by the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, raising the minimum wage and strengthening the EITC are “the twin pillars of making work pay for families that earn low wages.”

House Speaker Tina Kotek (D – N/NE Portland) made both policies top priorities for the 2016 legislative session. In addition to support for HB 4110, the Speaker has advocated for \$10 million to fund this expansion of Oregon's EITC program.

“By raising Oregon's minimum wage and expanding the EITC, we can make real progress to build an economy that works for everyone,” says Speaker Kotek. “This week, the House has taken two major steps to support the working families who need it most.”

Today's vote builds upon efforts to help working families from the 2015 legislative session, when lawmakers approved strategic investments in the Employment Related Day Care Program and the Working Family Child and Dependent Care tax credit in order to increase access to quality, affordable childcare for working families.

“We are making a serious effort to reduce poverty and address extreme income inequality in Oregon,” says Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer (D – Portland), Chair of the Housing and Human Services Committee. “We still have much more work to do, but expanding the EITC for families with young kids is a smart step to help thousands of families who need support right now.”

###