



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2022

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House Democrats Vote to Send Low-Wage Workers \$600 Payments to Drive Down Cost of Living

Through House Bill 4157, a quarter of a million working families and individuals across the state will receive a one-time payment of \$600 as soon as June 2022

SALEM, Ore. - Today House Democrats passed [House Bill 4157 A](#), which will provide a one-time \$600 payment to low-income households with members who worked during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The payment will help to address the rising cost of living and help working Oregonians with necessities like childcare, rent, groceries and prescriptions.

“Right now many Oregonians, myself included, have been struggling to get by as the cost of living has skyrocketed,” said chief sponsor of the bill, [Representative Andrea Valderrama](#) (D-Portland). “These payments can make a huge difference for low-income individuals and working families: they can help pay a utility bill, buy necessary medicine, or essentials like diapers and groceries.”

Taxpayers who qualified for and claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on their 2020 personal income tax returns or file an amended 2020 tax return by April 15, 2022 will be eligible to receive these payments. According to the Department of Revenue (DOR), an estimated quarter of a million Oregonians will qualify.

“We know that the wealth gap has only continued to widen since the pandemic,” said [Representative Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn). “This means rising costs disproportionately impact our lowest wage workers. With this legislation we’re reaching the working families and individuals whose hard work is essential and makes up the backbone of our economy.”

Eligible Oregonians will not be required to go through an application process and can expect checks or a direct deposit as soon as June of this year. To see how the payment will be distributed across the state, [click here](#).

Payments will be distributed through the DOR and funding will come from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund program, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The bill passed the House 42-16 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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