



## OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senate Democrats Approve Payments to Lower-Income Workers to Help Address Rising Cost of Living**

*House Bill 4157 will provide one-time essential worker payments to more than a quarter million Oregonians*

SALEM – Today, the Senate approved [House Bill 4157](#) on a vote of 23 to 2. This legislation directs Oregon Department of Revenue to establish and administer a program to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department of Revenue will provide \$600 one-time assistance payments to low-income households with members who worked during the first year of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

“Low-wage workers are a critical part of our economy and are also the most vulnerable to the rising costs of everyday necessities,” said [Senator Kathleen Taylor](#) (D-Portland), Chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business, who carried the bill on the Senate floor. “Cash payments make a huge difference in the lives of individuals and working families: they can help pay a utility bill, buy necessary medicine, or essentials like diapers and groceries. Cash payments also ease stress, allowing families some support to manage the obstacles they face in their daily lives. House Bill 4157 is an opportunity to show support to our low-wage workers as they show up to do the jobs upon which our economy depends.”

Only taxpayers who qualified for and claimed the earned income tax credit on their 2020 personal income tax returns are eligible to receive these payments, which must be made by July 31, 2022. The Oregon Department of Revenue estimates that 245,000 taxpayers will be eligible, and payments are limited to one per household. Funding for these payments comes from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund program, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act.

House Bill 4157 will lead to more than a quarter million Oregonians getting much-needed payments to help deal with the rising cost of living and inflation.

House Bill 4157 now goes to the Governor for her signature.

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