



## **HB 4144-1 EITC Utilization**

Testimony for House Revenue Committee

Clearly, this bill is designed to get at the vexing problem of under-utilization of the EITC by Oregon's needy.

According to Citizens for Tax Justice, the average 1 adult, 2 children family receives federal EITC and CTC subsidies of \$4690. It makes no sense to leave this much federal money on the table while Oregon's working poor struggle to pay for basic needs like housing.

Of course, increasing federal participation will increase participation in Oregon's dependent, child care and EITC tax programs at the same time, increasing our own revenue investment in these family supports. But this is a new cost we can't afford to walk away from; our EITC is 8% of the federal EITC amount.

We do hope that you will ask Ways and Means to fund a strong public information campaign as well, and one that will be increasingly focused to the most neglected regions and populations after the facts are learned from the annual report for which this bill calls.

**We support HB 4144.**