



December 13, 2021

The Hon. Mark J. Cusack, Chair
The Hon. Adam G. Hinds, Chair
Joint Committee on Revenue
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Testimony in support of H.2871/S.1841, *An Act to increase family stabilization through the earned income tax credit*

Dear Chairman Cusack and Chairman Hinds:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of One Family, Inc. in support of H.2871/S.1841, *An Act to increase family stabilization through the earned income tax credit*, sponsored by Representative Decker and Senator DiDomenico.

One Family is a Massachusetts nonprofit that prevents family homelessness by helping low-income parents achieve academic and career success. Our approach to homelessness prevention includes direct-service programs, training and technical assistance, and public policy advocacy. Our direct-service programs – One Family Scholars and Credential to Career Coaching (“C2C”) – have a [track record](#) of enabling families to make progress towards and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

Through [One Family Scholars](#), each year we help 100 low-income single parents pursue college degrees, so they can build family-sustaining careers, and put a roof over their families’ heads. We do this through individualized coaching, scholarships, and incentive-based stipends. And over the past four years, through [C2C](#), we have helped approximately 190 low-income parents identify family-sustaining careers that match their skills and interests, and create and implement individualized plans to earn the credentials they need and enter those careers.

In addition to our direct-service programs, we provide technical assistance to service providers and government agencies, leveraging our expertise and highly-efficient strategies around supporting Massachusetts families on the road to self-sufficiency. In this capacity, we engage with partners across the Commonwealth, impacting over 2,200 families to date. Finally, we also work in coalition to advocate for state and federal investments in family homelessness prevention and economic opportunity, empowering One Family Scholars and C2C participants to use their voice as part of these advocacy efforts.

In addition to the support that our program participants receive through One Family Scholars and C2C, while working towards self-sufficiency they receive critical support through the state and federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Take, for example, Milagros, an Alumna of the One Family Scholars program who is currently working towards her Master of Social Work degree while also working full-time:

The Earned Income tax credit has been a huge help for my family. The combined money from the state and federal EITC is something we anticipate and rely on every year to help pay for big items such as tuition balances and student loans, catching up on bills, creating an emergency fund, or purchasing that vehicle we have been saving up for over the years. It also allows us to buy clothing appropriate for each season for my children, who grow taller every year.

Enacting H.2871/S.1841, *An Act to increase family stabilization through the earned income tax credit* would represent an investment in thousands of families such as Milagros's family. In her words, *"Increasing the amount of money that families receive from the Mass. EITC would help families like mine to transition out of poverty, save up, and be prepared for those unexpected emergencies, such as being laid off, or a car breaking down."*

This legislation would also provide hard-working immigrant families who file their taxes with an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), rather than with a social security number, with a level playing field. As Milagros puts it, *"Many families like mine come to the USA with a dream but instead find themselves facing a wall because of the many barriers impeding them to succeed and make a living wage. Helping more New Americans access the Mass. EITC would help many of these families escape poverty and bring them closer to achieving their dreams."*

We urge the Committee to report this important legislation favorably, and we further urge the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee members to reach out to House and Senate leadership in support of its enactment. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this critically-needed legislation, which we are proud to support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Paric', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Paric
Executive Director

cc: Representative Marjorie C. Decker, Senator Sal N. DiDomenico