

September 8, 2021

Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Employee Retention Tax Credit and Charitable Nonprofits

Dear Chairman Wyden:

The nonprofit sector faces unprecedented challenges as we assist you and the American people in providing pandemic relief and economic recovery. Prior to the pandemic, charitable nonprofits employed more than 12 million people, making us the third largest employer in the country – larger than the construction, financial services, and manufacturing industries. As of July 2021, over 600,000 nonprofit jobs were lost due to the pandemic and still haven't returned. Now, more than ever, nonprofits and the communities we serve need your support.

Congress enacted several support programs for businesses and nonprofits over the course of the pandemic, but as acknowledged by many, relief for charitable organizations has fallen short. While we recognize there are many competing priorities that could be included in the budget reconciliation bill, we believe Congress must do more to ensure that the needs of charitable nonprofits are highlighted during this once-in-a-generation moment. We urge you to prioritize support for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) during the Finance Committee September markups of that legislation.

Congress created the ERTC as part of the CARES Act to encourage businesses and nonprofits to keep employees on their payroll through 2020. Last December, Congress extended the ERTC through the middle of 2021 and expanded the program to allow an applicant who had previously received a Paycheck Protection Program loan to also be eligible for an ERTC. Finally, in March of 2021 in the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress extended the ERTC through the end of 2021. Unfortunately, access to the ERTC for the fourth quarter of 2021 would be taken away upon passage of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The ERTC is a refundable payroll tax credit for nonprofits and businesses that was designed to provide a financial incentive for employers to keep employees on their payrolls and continue to deliver important services during the pandemic and in its immediate aftermath. The ERTC was helping to do exactly what its name required: allowing nonprofits and businesses to retain critical employees in the face of the economic challenges caused by the pandemic. Since its creation last year, the ERTC has become a true lifeline for nonprofit economic viability. Tens of thousands of organizations are now counting on Fourth Quarter 2021 access to an ERTC to support the financial decisions they made to bring employees back on the payroll and increase operating capacity to serve their communities.

Specifically, we ask you to prioritize continued and robust support for the ERTC during consideration of the Finance Committee's portion of the budget reconciliation bill by:

- Allowing charitable nonprofits to access the ERTC during the Fourth Quarter of 2021;
- Extending nonprofit eligibility for the ERTC through 2022 to help ensure a strong economic recovery from the pandemic; and

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- Amending the definition of nonprofit “gross receipts” for the ERTC program to better reflect revenue available to support the work of nonprofits amid the pandemic.

Nonprofits are doing everything we can to serve communities across America during the pandemic. As the nation recovers, our sector will play a critical role in rebuilding the economy, restoring livelihoods, and strengthening communities. The undersigned national and Oregon charitable nonprofit organizations seek your support for urgent relief through retention and improvement of the ERTC in budget reconciliation that will enable charitable organizations to contribute to our nation’s relief, recovery, and rebuilding.

Sincerely,

Oregon Nonprofits

2D4D	Beaverton	Eugene Ballet	Eugene
A Greater Applegate	Ruch	Eugene/Springfield NAACP	Eugene
Addictions Recovery Center, Inc.	Medford	Fifth Corner Academy	McMinnville
Adelante Mujeres	Forest Grove	Five Oaks Museum	Portland
AGE+	Clackamas	Friendly House	Portland
American Cider Association	Portland	Friends of Outdoor School	Portland
Ballet Fantastique	Eugene	Friends of the Breitenbush	Gates
Beaverton Downtown Association	Beaverton	Cascades	
Beaverton Symphony Orchestra	Beaverton	Friends of the Cascade Locks Historical Museum	Cascade Locks
Bloom Anew	Portland	Frontline Services PDX	Portland
Broadway Rose Theatre Company	Tigard	Geos Institute	Ashland
BURMESE AMERICAN BUDDHIST CORP.	Damascus	Girl Scouts of Oregon & Southwest Washington	Portland
Cedar Mill Community Library Association	Portland	GLSEN Oregon	Portland
Central City Concern	Portland	Grande Ronde Symphony Association	La Grande
Children's Cancer Association	Portland	Grants Pass Museum of Art	Grants Pass
Children's Center of Clackamas County	Portland	Gresham Historical Society	Gresham
CHILOQUIN VISIONS IN PROGRESS	Chiloquin	Habitat for Humanity of La Pine	Sunriver
Columbia Center for the Arts	Hood River	Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County	Newport
Cottage Theatre	Cottage Grove	Hand Up Project Inc.	Portland
Council on Aging of Central Oregon	Bend	Healing Reins Therapeutic Riding Center	Bend
DanceAbility International	Eugene	Health Care for All Oregon	Portland
Diversability Inc.	Bend	Heartland Humane Society	Corvallis
EcoDistricts	Portland	Hillsboro Downtown Partnership	Hillsboro
Elkton Community Education Center	Elkton,	Hillsboro Soccer Club	Hillsboro
		Humane Society of Central Oregon	Bend
		Impact NW	Portland

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IN A LANDSCAPE	Portland	OregonASK	Wilsonville
Institute for Applied Ecology	Corvallis	Pacific Youth Choir	Portland
Jackson Street Youth Services	Corvallis	Parrott Creek Child & Family Services	Oregon City
Jessie F. Richardson Foundation	Clackamas	Pathway Enterprises, Inc.	Medford
Lane County Historical Society	Eugene	Pearl Buck Center	Eugene
Little Engineers Education Foundation	Portland	PERIOD, Inc	Portland
Living Yoga	Portland	PHOENIX Rising Transitions	Gresham
Maji Development Coalition	Portland	Portland Art Museum	Portland
MetroEast Community Media	Gresham	Portland Christian Schools	Portland
Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance	Milton-Freewater	Portland Folklore Society dbaPortland FolkMusic Society	Portland
Neurotherapeutic Pediatric Therapies, Inc.	Canby	Portland Fruit Tree Project	Portland
New Freedom Lane County Nonprofit Association of Oregon	Dorena Portland	Portland Revels	Portland
North Clackamas Watersheds Council	Milwaukie	Portland'5 Centers for the Arts Foundation	Portland
NTEN	Portland	Post Growth Institute	Ashland
NW Dance Project	Portland	Project Access NOW	Portland
Oceanaire Partners	Seaside	Rahab's Sisters	Portland
Old Mill Center for Children and Families Inc.	Corvallis	Restore Oregon	Portland
OnTrack Rogue Valley	Medford	rimrock recycling	Burns
Open Adoption & Family Services	Portland	Rogue Food Unites	Ashland
Options Counseling and Family Services	Eugene	Rogue Valley Family YMCA	Medford
Oregon Adult Soccer Association, Inc.	Portland	Self Enhancement, Inc.	Portland
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs	Roseburg	Somali American Council Of Oregon	Portland
Oregon Association of Parliamentarians	Statewide	South Lane Mental Health	Cottage Grove
Oregon Aviation Historical Society	Cottage Grove	SquareOne Villages	Eugene
Oregon Coast Community Action	Coos Bay	Stayton Public Library Foundation	Stayton
Oregon Crime Victims Law Center	Portland	Stumptown Events Inc.	Portland
Oregon Music Hall of Fame	Portland	Teras Interventions and Counseling Inc.	Portland
Oregon Referee Committee	Beaverton	The Big-Little School	Eugene
Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Ashland	The Blueprint Foundation	Portland
Oregon Wildlife Foundation	Portland	The Circus Project	Portland
		The Family Nurturing Center	Medford
		The Little French School	Eugene
		The Pathfinder Network	Portland
		The Portland Ballet	Portland
		The Shadow Project	Portland
		Tualatin Valley Creates	Beaverton
		United Way of Central Oregon	Bend
		United Way of Lane County	Eugene/ Springfield

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United Way of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties	Albany	WomenFirst Transition & Referral Center	Gresham
United Way of the Columbia-Willamette	Portland	Yamhill-Carlton Together Cares	Carlton
Waldorf Association of Portland, Inc.	Milwaukie	Youth Empowerment Shelter	The Dalles
We Can Do Better	Eugene		

National Nonprofits

Agudath Israel of America	KABOOM!
American Alliance of Museums	League of American Orchestras
Americans for the Arts	Meals on Wheels America
Association of Art Museum Directors	Mental Health America
Boys & Girls Clubs of America	National Art Education Association (NAEA)
Cancer Support Community	National Council of Nonprofits
Catholic Charities USA	NECHAMA - Jewish Response to Disaster
CERF+ The Artists Safety Net	Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Council on Foundations	OPERA America
Dance/USA	The Nonprofit Alliance
ETS	Theatre Communications Group
Girl Scouts of the USA	Union for Reform Judaism
Girls Inc.	United Philanthropy Forum
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.	United Way Worldwide
Habitat for Humanity International	Volunteers of America
Independent Sector	YMCA of the USA
JCC Association of North America	YWCA USA
Jewish Federations of North America	