



“Working together to end hunger in Oregon”

“Because no one should be hungry”



REPORT ON THE 2005 LEGISLATURE

To protect children and other vulnerable people from going hungry, OHRTF and OFB supported legislation that forwarded the goals in the *“Act to End Hunger.”*

FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

GOAL: Create a Renter’s Tax Credit.

RESULT: The House Revenue Committee was moved by the breadth of testimony on the struggles of working poor families and agreed to move one tax credit bill. OHRTF and OFB opted for a refundable earned income tax credit this year.

GOAL: Make the Earned Income Tax Credit refundable and increase the value to eliminate state taxes for working poor families.

RESULT: SB 31 included a refundable EITC starting in 2006, raising the amount from the current 5% to 6% in 2008, expiring in 2010.

GOAL: Increased educational opportunities for low-income families by expanding the Oregon Opportunity Grant Program and implementing Parents as Scholars.

RESULT: The Oregon Opportunity Grant Program received an additional \$33 million and was expanded to include part-time students. The Parents as Scholars bill died in the Senate Budget Committee. OHRTF and OFB are working with the Oregon Department of Human Services to find other ways to implement the program.

GOAL: Strengthen rules for payday loans to help keep low-income families from spiraling into more debt.

RESULT: The bill was amended considerably and passed by the Senate, but it never received a hearing in the House. The bill generated a lot of media coverage, and the coalition formed in support of this measure will meet in the interim.

GOAL: Maintain and strengthen safety net programs.

RESULT: Funds were not restored for General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, or most job retention and support services. This was a travesty but it was hard to get any attention on these issues with big ticket items like school budgets taking up the bulk of the discussion.

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

GOAL: Expand the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

RESULT: While SB 289 was passed, adding \$49,000 to help the program reach more recipients in rural areas, a like amount was eliminated from the program's budget in the last weeks of the session, making this a wash.

FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAMS AND EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS
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GOAL: Expand support for the Summer Food Service Program

RESULTS: SB 467 was passed and signed into law, allotting five cents in state funds for every summer lunch served. A big success!

GOAL: Protect funds for Oregon Food Bank's statewide network.

RESULT: Funding was maintained and a small cost-of-living increase was granted.