



# Marion County

OREGON

## Board of Commissioners

April 5, 2021

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Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senator Chuck Thomen, Vice Chair  
Senator Sara Gelser  
Senator Chris Gorsek  
Senator Art Robinson

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Members of the Senate Committee On Education  
State Capital Building  
900 Court Street NE. Salem, OR 97301

Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Danielle Bethell  
Colm Willis

### RE: Support of SB 623

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

The Marion County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bill 623.

Over the last year Oregonians experienced unprecedented unemployment; systems were stretched, and the most vulnerable members of the population suffered the most. Today, the unemployment rate is double what it was a year ago, labor market participation is unbelievably low, and the rates of youth unemployment are concerning. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted low income earners, low skilled workers, women, and people of color.

SB 623 will create and opportunity to analyze and make recommendations to changes in the existing system. The workforce system can address local situations with more targeted, community-specific outcomes in mind. SB 623 provides the opportunity to examine the system, determine how to implement best practices, and look at ways to improve and change existing structures.

Marion County has remained strong despite the pandemic, wildfires and an ice storm. However, opportunities to evaluate success and implement measures to increase success for those disproportionately impacted, are valuable to their individual lives, their families lives and local economies.

SB 623 begins addressing these opportunities, and creates a path forward which will benefit the citizens of Marion County and the rest of the state.

Sincerely,





Kevin Cameron, Chair      Danielle Bethell, Vice Chair      Colm Willis, Commissioner