

Submitter: Ashley Song  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Media Production Association  
Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity  
Measure: HB4153

To the Oregon Legislative Assembly:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 4153. As an actor/producer and co-founder of a minority-owned and -operated business, it is incredibly important to me that the commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion be reflected in Oregon's policymaking. As such, this bill is a crucial step in the process of connecting the Oregon Production Investment Funds to creating opportunities for equity in our industry's hiring practices. As an Asian-American filmmaker myself, I have relied so much on initiatives that sought to include me and my work. The truth is, merit alone is often not enough to secure artists the opportunities they work so hard for. An Opportunity Fund that supports projects and initiatives designed to uplift underrepresented film and media makers will help to rectify the preexisting disparities within the media making community and industry at large.

As an example, I hired four entry level positions when producing the feature film, "Mother of Color" utilizing Oregon Film's Pathways Program in summer 2021. Since then, I have watched all four of the Pathways participants secure jobs on other sets, increasing their skill sets and moving up in position in their respective departments. It has been incredibly gratifying to check in with these participants - participants who identify as women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community - and see that even a single opportunity like the one that was afforded them through the Pathways Program was the job they needed to get a leg up in an industry that can present sometimes insurmountable barriers of entry, especially for those from the non-dominant culture. Thank you for your time and attention to this piece of legislation, and I look forward to witnessing the change that comes about when it is passed.

Warmly,  
Ashley Song