

**JANELLE S. BYNUM**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 51



**COMMUNITIES**

East Portland  
Damascus  
Gresham  
Boring  
Clackamas  
Happy Valley

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Cate, Kropf, and members of the committee, good morning. My name is Janelle Bynum and I represent House District 51, which includes East Portland, Damascus, Gresham, Boring, North Clackamas, and Happy Valley. I am here to testify in support of HB 4153, the “Creative Opportunity Program.”

Our community is overflowing with creatives and hard-workers eager to develop their talents and pursue their dreams. They are in desperate need of the access to resources to make those dreams a reality. This bill is one way to fill that gap.

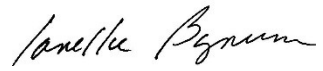
I’m not sure how many of you are movie buffs, binge watchers, or documentary nerds like me. But I can guess that after a long day’s work, you might retreat to listen in, escape, or immerse yourself in a world different from your current reality. From a mental health standpoint, I’d argue that we need to escape from the trials and tribulations of daily life. Storytelling is a part of a healthy Oregon, where we hear people in their own words or have an opportunity to experience an event from someone else’s perspective.

When the talent of storytelling is properly recognized, nurtured and given an equitable amount of funding and institutional support, the film and media production industries thrive; the economic opportunities expand, the programs to cultivate talent grow, and barriers that hinder progress drop. Award-winning Writer, Producer, and Director Ava DuVernay once said, “All the traditional models for doing things are collapsing; from music to publishing to film, and it’s a wide open door for people who are creative to do what they need to do without having institutions block their art.”

In countless sectors of our economy right now we’re trying to figure out how to grow our own talent, how we stabilize the workforce and how we recruit and retain it. We are also motivated to support the growth of small businesses in the state. With this bill, we create our own storytellers and creators. By supporting them we grow and we enhance Oregon’s workforce, small businesses brand, and our industries.

In conclusion, I urge your support of HB 4153 so that we don’t only grow our own, but that we expand with our own for the benefit of all Oregonians. Beyond that, I know that Oregon has so many more stories to tell and share about its abundant beauty through the eyes of the talent of our state and I’m happy that the panelists that follow me will get to share their stories with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janelle Bynum".

Rep. Janelle Bynum