

April 26, 2023

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of Ways and Means Committee Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of Ways and Means Committee

SBDC Funding State of Oregon

I send this letter of support to you so you understand that the two Bills SB 5524 and HB 2908 will allow the Small Business Development Center at Treasure Valley Community College to continue supporting small businesses within our communities with much needed funding.

I cannot say enough about the impact the SBDC has had on my business over the years. We began our relationship in 2000 when I started an in-home business. They were an immense help in securing funding for my new venture as well as helping me write a business plan and figure out all the ins and outs of running a small business. Not only were they available at the onset of the business but continued to be a support to help get the business on solid ground. One of the advisors met with a group of us monthly (that started businesses around the same time). Although the businesses were dissimilar, we experienced the same growing pains and were able to bounce ideas off of each other and problem solve. I credit this group with the success of the business.

In 2005, once again the SBDC was helping me with a business plan and financing to merge my home-based business with an existing store-front business. This merge included employees, something I was not familiar with. Their knowledge and expertise helped me navigate the new waters. They are always quick to reply to emails or texts and to meet with me regarding any problems or questions I have. Andrea has become a friend and trusted confidant over the years.

After 20 years in business, I had fewer questions for the SBDC...then COVID hit. That was a whole different ball game trying to figure out how to survive in that business climate. Since my business is largely reliant on events and sports, I was hugely affected by the shutdowns. Having a local SBDC during this turbulent and scary time was a life saver (at least a business saver). I was able to keep my doors open and have even grown the business.

The most recent interactions have been regarding my exiting strategy. We have brainstormed various ideas to sell the business. Over the next couple years, I will need their input and support for this transition, and I know the new owner will rely on them as much as I have.

It is for the good of our local economy to continue funding the SBDC. Small business is the backbone of our community and has a huge impact.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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