



**JANELLE S. BYNUM, STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DISTRICT 39

April 27, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, for the record my name is Janelle Bynum, State Representative for House District 39, and I am here today in support of House Bill 3254.

The Federal CHIPS and Science Act presents a once in a generation opportunity for Oregon to solidify itself as a world leader in the semiconductor and advance manufacturing sector. Through passage of Senate Bill 4, we have already taken a very ambitious step forward to seize the opportunity.

However, one crucial piece our semiconductor package is missing is targeted workforce investments to elevate employment opportunities for historically marginalized communities. These workforce investments are needed not only to ensure shared prosperity across our state, but is a prerequisite under the CHIPS Act for our state to receive significant federal funding.

House Bill 3254 would create the “Semiconductor Talent Sustainability Fund” to make targeted investments at varying levels of the semiconductor workforce. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, otherwise known as HECC, will administer grants with guidance from recommendations made by a newly created Semiconductor Industry Advisory Committee.

The long-term investments contemplated under the Talent Sustainability Fund are complimented with several direct investments to spark immediate workforce development. Under the bill, HECC will award grants to the following organizations:

- (1) “Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon” to provide technical assistance to help small and minority-owned businesses enter or support the semiconductor industry; MESO presented its work on helping small businesses state-wide to the Semiconductor Committee earlier this session.
- (2) “Building Blocks 2 Success” for STEM education and career development programing, with a focus on college preparation, summer programming, and internship support;

BB2S is a partner with OSU in bringing students from underrepresented areas to the STEM camp for an immersive experience and exposure. The organization is also a key partner in helping students consider an HBCU education, so that they may return to Oregon for further graduate education and employment opportunities.

- (3) "Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center" to create a semiconductor industry specific workforce and business development center; and
- (4) "Self Enhancement, Inc.," to build a pipeline for diverse and underrepresented students to gain employment in the semiconductor industry upon high school graduation. This organization boasts a 100% graduation rate at the high school where its services are embedded and students are expected to achieve. Excellence, academic curiosity and rigor are keys to this program that will build on its history of success.

Supplementary materials on the organizations are provided in meeting materials.

These investments will ensure that our state's growing semiconductor industry produces the family wage jobs we promised our constituents when we passed Senate Bill 4. This is the economically sound and morally right thing to do, and for these reasons I hope you will join me in supporting House Bill 3254.