



February 6, 2024

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Diehl, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Beaverton, I am writing today to express our strong support for HB 4101, which will allow businesses registering with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office to voluntarily attest to their ethnicity, gender, and veteran status.

Currently, there is no centralized location to identify the number and performance of businesses in Oregon based on their ethnicity, gender, or veteran status. Knowing this information is as critical as ever, given the recent [disparity study](#) published by the Department of Administrative Services that found Oregon severely underutilizes businesses owned by culturally-specific populations and veterans in public procurement.

The Oregon Secretary of State Business Registry provides a perfect location for businesses to provide their demographic information voluntarily. In addition to creating a central hub to understand who is operating businesses in Oregon, House Bill 4101 will further allow the Secretary of State's Office to securely share gathered information with state agencies, local government and community-based organizations dedicated to advancing the economic development of all businesses operating in Oregon. Furthermore, this demographic information would be beneficial to the City of Beaverton's business license database as an additional resource to verify information for accuracy and to help inform our business-focused programs and services.

Fully understanding Oregon's business landscape requires knowing who is conducting business in Oregon and where disparities in economic opportunity are most prevalent. HB 4101 will create a system for Oregon to expand opportunities for economic development and greater equality in our state's procurement system and the City of Beaverton.

I urge your support for HB 4101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KW" with a stylized flourish.

Kenya Williams, Equity & Inclusion Officer
City of Beaverton