



Feb 1st 2024

Dear Interim Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

On behalf of The BFM Fund I am writing today to express our organization's strong support for House Bill 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 is severely underutilizing 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 voluntarily provide their demographic information. In addition to creating a central hub to understand who is operating business in Oregon, House Bill 4101 will further allow the Secretary of State office to securely share gathered information with state agencies and community-based organizations that are dedicated to advancing the economic development of all businesses operating in Oregon.

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

For these reasons I hope you too will support House Bill 4101.

Thank you,

Rachel Wilson

Managing Partner

The BFM Fund