

Testimony In Support of HB 4041

Leah Maurer

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

February 8, 2024

Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 4041.

As an engaged community leader, activist and mother of 3 who's lived in Portland since 2009, I believe economic justice and equity is essential for the future prosperity of our state. Social justice and advocacy are core values to my professional and community work.

HB 4041 will directly address Oregon's expanding wealth gap by providing grants and technical assistance to community-based programs working to build generational wealth for people experiencing multiple economic risks, such as residency in a rural location, racial discrimination, or English language proficiency. Economic justice is social justice.

The Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP), created in 2022, directed Business Oregon to provide one-time funding to community-based organizations with solutions that build generational wealth for communities across Oregon. The results are now in and the EEIP has become a proven model to advance equitable economic development in every corner of our state.

It is important to me, my community and family that you support House Bill 4041.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leah Maurer