

**MAXINE E. DEXTER, MD**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 33



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**To: Members of the House Committee on Higher Education**

**Date: February 7, 2024**

**Subject: Support HB 4154**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Maxine Dexter and I am honored to be the State Representative for House District 33, which includes NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park. I am grateful for this opportunity today to submit this testimony in support of HB 4154 which establishes the Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund.

Oregon continues to experience a shortage of skilled workers, and HB 4154 will help close that gap, providing training that will lead to skilled, family wage jobs. With the passage of the CHIPS Act and SB 4 in the 2023 session, we have an opportunity to continue the important momentum that has been increasing toward a stable and thriving bedrock industry in Oregon. The Semiconductor industry provides good wages and significant opportunity for our state- we must invest in building the educational and training pipelines to meet a growing demand for skilled workers in this sector.

HB 4154 in total would allocate \$30 million dollars - \$5 million each to funds focused on STEM education and work-based learning intended to apply to programs in K-12, community college workforce training, and advanced degrees, and \$15 million in direct allocations to community colleges and universities to kickstart strategic investments in infrastructure.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity for Portland State University, which is directly adjacent to my district, to receive a \$2,900,000 grant to establish a center for semiconductor research, education and workforce development.

This level of investment in workforce training is critical to creating job opportunities and a stable economic future for Oregonians. I urge your support of HB 4154.

Sincerely,

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.

House District 33 (Northwest and Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park)