



**Testimony of Jose Gonzalez, LBA Co-founder/Board Vice President**

**In Support of HB 4041**

**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 allowing me to submit today this testimony in support of House Bill 4041.

As a Founder and current Board Member of an organization that serves Latino small business owners in the Willamette Valley, I believe economic justice and equity is essential for the future prosperity of our state. Additionally, if there is ever a time for our State to dig deeper to reach into the community it is now.

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.

That is why it is so important to me and the Latino Business Alliance that you support House Bill 4041. Thank you for your willingness to serve and appreciate your time. Gracias!

Thank you,

*Jose Gonzalez*

**Jose Gonzalez**

LBA Board Vice President

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