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Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development,

I am writing to express support for HB 3669, an important bill for Oregon's workforce and the state's prosperity.

HB 3669 continues the success of Future Ready Oregon by expanding access to career services, paid internships, and tuition-free job training, ensuring that all Oregonians can access the opportunities they need to thrive.

With funding for Future Ready's P10K set to expire this year, we must act now to reinvest in these efficient and effective programs. In Multnomah and Washington counties alone (through January 2025), 78% of 2,200 participants are now employed and earning an average wage of \$23.60 per hour. Statewide, more than 8,600 Oregonians—particularly low-income individuals, veterans, women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ residents—have benefited from P10K.

For every \$1 invested, Oregon will get \$2.98 back through new tax revenue and reduced dependency on social service programs. Additionally, federal workforce funding is projected to decline by 10% this year, putting additional strain on an already challenged system. With layoffs affecting industries from government to advanced manufacturing, it is more critical than ever to ensure Oregon's public workforce system is well-resourced to support displaced workers and help them transition into new careers.

I urge you to support HB 3669. This bill is a strategic economic driver that strengthens Oregon's communities and industries alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sean Kelly