



6401 SE Foster Road, Portland, OR 97206 • (503) 772-2300 • fax: (503) 774-8489 • [www.seworks.org](http://www.seworks.org)



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Holly Whittleton  
SE Works, Inc.  
6401 SE Foster Road  
Portland, Oregon 97206  
[hwhittleton@seworks.org](mailto:hwhittleton@seworks.org)  
503-772-2310

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

I represent SE Works, Inc and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3669, the Prosperity Programs bill, which builds on the proven success of Prosperity 10,000 (P10K) and ensures Oregonians have the workforce development resources they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving labor market.

The 2023 Future Ready Oregon legislation laid the groundwork for innovative workforce programs that have transformed lives across the state. HB 3669 continues this progress by expanding access to career coaching, scholarships, paid internships, and job training, ensuring that Oregonians, especially those facing systemic barriers—can access the opportunities they need to thrive.

SE Works was one of the many organizations who received funding through P10K, and that funding changed many lives. We believe that investing in low-income communities through workforce development programs like Future Ready's P10K is not just a social imperative, it's an economic necessity. We believe this funding will:

#### Strengthen the Workforce and Economy

- When low-income individuals gain access to training and career pathways, they move into stable, well-paying jobs that increase consumer spending and drive local economic growth.
- A skilled workforce attracts businesses, reduces employee turnover, and fills critical labor shortages in high-demand industries like healthcare, technology, and skilled trades.
- Investing in career pathways ensures that individuals not only get jobs but also move up the economic ladder, reducing generational poverty.

## Increase Tax Revenue and Economic Mobility

- Higher wages lead to increased tax contributions at local, state, and federal levels, creating a stronger tax base to reinvest in education, infrastructure, and community services.
- Supporting career mobility for low-income individuals helps break cycles of poverty, allowing families to become self-sufficient so that they can make education and homeownership a reality.

## Advancing Equity and Inclusion

- Targeted workforce investments in underserved communities ensure that historically marginalized groups—including BIPOC, women, LGBTQ+, and veterans—have access to economic opportunities.
- A diverse and inclusive workforce leads to innovation, stronger business performance, and higher employee engagement.

At SE Works we have seen how Future Ready's P10K funding has already transformed the lives of hundreds we have served. Without continued funding, low-income individuals will lose critical opportunities for advancement, and Oregon's workforce will face a widening skills gap.

Now is the time to reinvest in these proven solutions that uplift families, strengthen businesses, and build a more resilient economy.

Yours Truly,



Holly Whittleton  
Executive Director