



March 6, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Oregon Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 3669: Prosperity Programs Bill

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

I am the president of Chemeketa Community College, and have had the tremendous benefit of working closely with my local workforce board (Willamette Workforce Partnership) to create transformational impacts throughout our region through Prosperity 10,000 (P10K) - driven programming. I am in strong support for HB 3669, the Prosperity Programs bill, which builds on the proven success of 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. Chemeketa was a very active participant in this effort, and I can personally attest to the tremendous impact and efficacy of these programs. 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.

With funding for Future Ready's P10K set to expire this year, we must act now to reinvest in these efficient and effective programs. The data speaks for itself: In our region, 80% of the participants served have completed the program and are earning nearly \$22 an hour. Statewide, more than 8,600 Oregonians have benefited from P10K.

While \$50 million is a significant investment, the long-term benefits far outweigh the cost. 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 more than just a workforce initiative—it is a strategic economic driver that strengthens Oregon's communities and industries alike.

Thank you for your service, and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

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