

Submitter: Larry Williams
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB946

I encourage your support of SB 946 to give BOLI a stable source of funding out of the Workers' Benefit Fund for expenses of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in carrying out the commissioner's statutory duties.

Molly Weston Williamson writes that “efforts to weaken the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission make ... American workers more susceptible to discrimination in their workplaces” (<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administration-has-made-150-million-american-workers-newly-vulnerable-to-workplace-discrimination/>).

Jennifer Ludden (NPR) writes that two-thirds of the nonprofits who help Housing and Urban Development to enforce fair housing regulations had their contracts abruptly ended (<https://opb.org/article/2025/03/15/hud-has-choked-funding-to-enforce-fair-housing-laws/>).

Nick Beadle writes that “the federal government is finally and truly shifting away from spending toward good jobs” (<https://www.jobsthat.work/p/the-end-of-good-jobs-for-now>).

There has been an effective withdrawal of federal efforts to enforce workers’ civil rights & fair wages, protect fair housing, support training for good jobs, and engage with employers on these subjects.

In these times of uncertainty, Oregon needs a funding structure that will provide stability for the Bureau of Labor and Industries to carry out its mission to “[protect] workers’ rights through enforcement of state labor laws, [ensure] access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination for all Oregonians, and [promote] the development of a highly skilled workforce through registered apprenticeship programs.” (<https://www.oregon.gov/boli/about/pages/what-we-do.aspx>).