

Don Sanders  
5732 NE Halsey St.  
Portland, OR 97213

3/27/25

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

We are at a crucial point in the Oregon Legislative Session, and our communities need your help. I'm writing in support of House Bill 3669, which builds upon the incredible success of Prosperity 10,000 (P10K) and creates Prosperity Programs—a workforce development initiative that will continue delivering real, measurable benefits to Oregonians and our state's economy.

Prosperity Programs strengthen our workforce through local, proven programs that help Oregonians overcome employment barriers. With rapid, targeted distribution through Local Workforce Development Boards, these funds are making an immediate impact by:

- ✅ Connecting historically underserved job seekers to high-quality careers—61% of participants are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women, rural Oregonians, or individuals facing poverty
- ✅ Providing scholarships, career coaching, and essential support services to get back to work
- ✅ Offering paid work-based learning opportunities that lead to career-track employment

I lead the team of MHCC Workforce Development Specialists that work with community members who are seeking training opportunities that will allow them to gain the skills and certifications needed to secure employment. Over the last 9 months we have provided career coaching and employment support that included certificate earning training program scholarships to 54 individuals through this P10K funding. I urge you to support the House Bill 3669.

**The financial impact is undeniable:**

- \$23.1 million in new tax revenue
- \$195.4 million in reduced social service costs
- A total financial benefit of \$219 million to Oregon taxpayers

The public workforce system is where laid-off workers go for help. It is the main delivery mechanism during times of economic uncertainty. Fully funding HB 3669 ensures Oregonians

have access to resources regardless of what happens at the federal level. Let's ensure our state is ready for the opportunities that lie ahead by moving this essential legislation forward.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Sanders, Director of Workforce Development- Mt. Hood Community College