

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2425
Chair & Committee Members,

I Support HB 2425.

This type of task force promotes accountability and transparency in public spending. Taxpayer dollars should never be used to support or enable human rights abuses. Yet, in a globalized economy with long and often opaque supply chains, there is a real risk that goods purchased by public institutions may be produced under exploitative or illegal labor conditions. This task force would help our state take proactive steps to address that risk and ensure that state procurement standards reflect our values.

The creation of this type of task force positions Oregon as a leader in ethical procurement. While many jurisdictions have acknowledged the problem of forced labor in global supply chains, few have taken structured, comprehensive action to address it at the state level. By convening experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to develop targeted verification methods, Oregon can set a national example of how to implement ethical procurement in a practical and effective way.

I believe this approach is balanced and solution-oriented. Rather than rushing into overly broad mandates or punitive regulations, this bill creates a forum for careful, evidence-based policy development. The task force is empowered to explore a range of methods—from supplier audits and certification systems to international labor data and supply chain tracing technologies. This ensures that any future procurement policies will be grounded in feasibility and informed by diverse expertise.

Combating forced and child labor is not just a moral imperative—it is also a legal and reputational one. Consumers, investors, and international partners are increasingly holding organizations accountable for the ethics of their supply chains. Oregon's leadership on this issue will help safeguard the state's integrity and position public institutions to meet evolving standards of responsible sourcing.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for B2425. This legislation represents a vital step toward aligning our public procurement practices with human rights and sustainability values, while also ensuring transparency, due diligence, and accountability in how our state does business.