



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Employment Department
Advisory Council**
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Robert Westerman, Chair
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David Gerstenfeld
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Director,
Oregon Employment
Department

Rebecca Nance
Council Staff
Principal Legislative
Advisor,
Oregon Employment
Department

April 10, 2025

Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez:

As Chair and Vice Chairs of the Oregon Employment Department (OED) Advisory Council, we are sending this letter in support of HB 5007, the Oregon Employment Department's budget request. The services that OED provides to Oregonians are critical for both workers and employers, and the funding levels they are requesting will help them continue to provide adequate customer service levels for these programs in the 2025-2027 biennium while not raising taxes.

Unemployment Insurance is an important safety net for Oregonians who find themselves unemployed – helping them, their families, and their communities in times of hardship. OED also provides important supports to help businesses find workers and help job seekers find employment. Their employment work is also critical to helping people transition from unemployment insurance quickly. The labor market information provided by OED helps job seekers, employers, and policy makers in important ways.

These programs are critical to Oregon's economy, and we want to express our support for OED's requested budget, as well as a possible House Revenue Committee bill that would increase the diversion rate of the Supplemental Employment Department Administrative Fund (SEDAF) to 0.135%. This rate increase would permit the Governor's Recommended Budget for OED to go forward. Without this change, OED will have to make significant cuts to its staff. Timely services are

important, and cuts would result in unacceptable customer service standards for Oregonians who rely on OED's programs and services.

This SEDAF rate increase would prevent staffing cuts and drops in customer service levels. Particularly during a time of increased uncertainty about the economy's future, we cannot afford to cut staff who are responsible for supporting job seekers and businesses throughout Oregon. The rate increase would not increase the amount of UI taxes paid by employers, and it is not projected to impact UI tax schedules as far forward as those projections can be reliably made (through 2032).

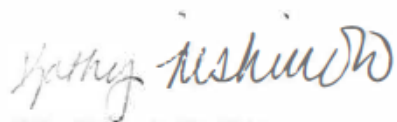
The Advisory Council comprises employer, employee, and public members with the purpose of providing feedback and guidance to the agency director with respect to the unemployment insurance and employment service programs.

We urge your support for HB 5007 and the potential forthcoming House Revenue Committee Bill increasing the SEDAF rate.

On behalf of the OED Advisory Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Westerman', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert Westerman, Chair
OED Advisory Council Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Nishimoto', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kathy Nishimoto, Vice Chair
OED Advisory Council Vice Chair

CC: Full Ways and Means
Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Vice Chair
Honorable Representative David Gomberg, Co-Vice
Chair

Honorable Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Honorable Senator Dick Anderson, Member
Honorable Senator Daniel Bonham, Member
Honorable Senator Anthony Broadman, Member
Honorable Senator Wlnsvey Campos, Member
Honorable Senator Lew Frederick, Member
Honorable Senator Mike McLane, Member
Honorable Senator David Brock Smith, Member
Honorable Senator Janeen Sollman, Member
Honorable Senator Aaron Woods, Member
Honorable Representative Ben Bowman, Member
Honorable Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson, Member
Honorable Representative Jami Cate, Member
Honorable Representative Christine Drazan, Member
Honorable Representative Paul Evans, Member
Honorable Representative Emerson Levy, Member
Honorable Representative Mark Owens, Member
Honorable Representative Ricki Ruiz, Member
Honorable Representative Andrea Valderrama, Member

CC: Transportation and Economic Development (TED) Ways and Means Subcommittee

Honorable Senator Aaron Woods, Co-Chair
Honorable Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Honorable Senator Mark Meek, Member
Honorable Senator Bruce Starr, Member
Honorable Representative Jami Cate, Member
Honorable Representative Daniel Nguyen, Member
Honorable Representative Alek Skarlatos, Member
Honorable Representative Mari Watanabe, Member