



February 10, 2026

The Honorable Nathan Sosa
Chair, House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 4141 – Debt Resolution Services Registration

Dear Chair Sosa:

My name is Kevin B. Kimble, Founder and CEO of the Financial Services Innovation Coalition (FSIC). FSIC is an organization dedicated to economic empowerment and innovation through policy development and programmatic activities. Our network comprises experts across the country in areas including taxation, healthcare, small business development, and consumer financial services. We regularly advise and collaborate with state, local, and federal officials on policy development, draft legislation, conduct research, and publish academic papers addressing critical economic issues.

I am pleased to testify today in strong support of HB 4141. In these extraordinarily difficult economic times, Oregon consumers need every available tool to preserve their financial stability and economic well-being. The current economic data from Oregon overwhelmingly support the urgent need for policies like HB 4141.

The Economic Reality Facing Oregon Consumers

Oregon is experiencing a severe economic crisis that demands immediate policy action:

Income Crisis:

- Oregon median household income is \$75,000, already \$8,000 below the \$83,000 needed to live comfortably in the state. (Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2024 estimates; [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#), February 2025; Salary.com comfortable income analysis, 2025)
- The bottom 30-40% of Oregon households earn under \$50,000 annually, facing severe financial pressure where basic expenses consume most or all of their income. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2023, income distribution data)
- Minimum wage workers earn just \$30,576 per year, a staggering 71% below what's needed to meet basic living expenses (\$52,328 living wage). (Sources: Oregon minimum wage \$14.70/hour × 2,080 hours; [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#), February 2025)
- In Portland, while median income appears adequate at \$88,792, the bottom third of households earning under \$50,000 see average rents of \$1,715/month consume 50-67% of their income. (Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) September 2025; [RentCafe](#) average rent data, 2025)

Employment Crisis:



- Unemployment rate: 5.2% (September 2025), the third highest in the nation, indicating widespread job insecurity. (Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), September 2025)
- Mass layoffs in 2025 totaling approximately 9,000 workers (600/month), exceeding Great Recession levels and creating waves of financial distress. (Sources: [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), 2025; Oregon Employment Department layoff notices)
- Intel alone cut 6,000 jobs (26% of its Oregon workforce), devastating entire communities dependent on these high-wage positions. (Sources: [KGW News](#), 2025; [The Oregonian](#), 2025)

Housing and Debt Crisis:

- Eviction filings: 1,500-2,000 monthly statewide, with 1 in 24 Oregon households (4.2%) facing eviction proceedings in the past year alone. (Sources: [Eviction Research Network](#), 2024-2025; Oregon court data)
- Portland evictions surged 87% since 2019, from 492 to 923 monthly filings, with some neighborhoods seeing 1 in 3 households facing annual eviction. (Sources: [Portland.gov](#) housing data, 2024; [Portland State University](#) Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative)
- Rental assistance programs cover only 2.6% of those facing eviction in Portland (24 households/month versus 923 monthly filings), leaving families with nowhere to turn. (Source: [Portland Housing Bureau](#) program capacity data, 2024)
- Homelessness in Portland increased 67% from 2023-2025, directly correlated with the eviction crisis and lack of financial safety nets. (Sources: [Multnomah County](#) Point-in-Time Count, 2023 & 2025; [KGW News](#), January 2025)

These struggling Oregonians, particularly those earning 30-40% below \$50,000 annually, are the ones who most urgently need access to debt resolution services. They are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or job loss away from financial catastrophe. Yet Oregon's existing 7.5% fee cap, enacted in 2009 before comprehensive federal protections were in place, has effectively eliminated access to professional debt resolution services in the state. While the Obama-era Federal Trade Commission regulations now provide robust consumer protections nationwide, Oregon consumers remain unable to access these federally-regulated services due to state-level barriers that no longer serve their intended purpose.

Support for HB 4141 with Additional Recommendations

We believe the current provisions in HB 4141 establish a safe and effective regulatory structure that will bring debt resolution services to Oregon. However, we respectfully suggest the Committee consider additional consumer protections that could further strengthen the bill:

1. Enhanced Bankruptcy-Level Protections for Program Participants



Cessation of collection activities: Automatic stay on collection efforts for consumers enrolled in registered debt settlement programs, similar to bankruptcy protections.

Eviction moratorium: Temporary protection from eviction proceedings for enrolled consumers actively making program payments, ensuring housing stability during debt resolution.

Vehicle repossession moratorium: Protection from automobile repossession for enrolled consumers, preserving their ability to maintain employment and meet program obligations.

2. Tax Relief Provisions

Exclusion from taxable income: Forgiven or reduced principal amounts resulting from successful debt settlement should not be counted as taxable income, preventing consumers from facing unexpected tax liabilities that undermine their financial recovery.

Professional fee deduction: Allow expenses paid for debt settlement services to be treated as tax-deductible professional fees, similar to legal and accounting services, recognizing their role in financial restructuring.

In these challenging economic times, we applaud the Oregon Legislature for taking action to provide new tools to protect Oregonians from financial instability and exposure to high-interest debt. The data make clear that thousands of Oregon families are struggling and need access to every available tool for managing their debt.

FSIC would be honored to work with the Committee to strengthen these protections further through the additional provisions outlined above or other measures you deem appropriate. Thank you for your leadership on this critical consumer protection issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin B. Kimble, Esq.
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Financial Services Innovation Coalition (FSIC)