



TO: House Labor and Workforce Development Committee  
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations and Communications  
DATE: February 9, 2026  
RE: HB 4027

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Muñoz and Scharf, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 4027

School districts are familiar with having their available funding for positions subject to the decisions of the Legislature, so we understand the challenge this bill aims to solve. However, the proposal in HB 4027 where all employers, including public employers, would pay additional fees to cover the cost of positions at BOLI creates a situation where taxpayer dollars are taken from local services and providers rather than the Legislature providing sufficient funds to BOLI directly.

We understand the need for these positions, but we do need to elevate this as yet another unfunded mandate on school districts. It may not be a terribly high fee, but it is an additional cost that will come out of the monies allocated to schools by the Legislature. This is not a cost districts will have control over, or even something the Legislature will set going forward. Rather, the amount charged may change at the discretion of DCBS, with little oversight by the Legislature.

This fee in and of itself will not be overly impact on most districts' budgets, but it would be the latest in a long line of new costs pushed onto school districts via legislative mandates that don't come with funding. These are the types of costs we cite when trying to explain why overall per-student funding in Oregon is not the same as the amount of money that actually makes it to the classroom.

We encourage you to find a solution to the BOLI funding issue, but to do so in a way that doesn't involve taking money from local schools.

Thank you for your consideration.