



United Way of Jackson County

May 17, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively and Committee Members:

United Way of Jackson County supports SB623 because we have a twindemic in Southern Oregon with COVID19 and the wildfires in September creating their own level of economic disaster. More than 130,000 Oregonians are still unemployed and many will not be returning to work until pandemic unemployment stops. This has most severely impacted women with children, low wage earners, people of color and younger workers. These circumstances certainly have highlighted flaws in our systems designed to help people that now create a somewhat paralytic environment.

SB 623:

- Leverages and aligns existing resources, programs, services, and relationships to ensure people and businesses have access to the broadest array of available resources and services.
- Empowers the legislature and our communities as partners in implementing equitable, effective approaches to state-funded workforce development programs.
- Emphasizes the need to inform program design and delivery at the local level and provides the structure to “meet people where they are.”
- Offers a comprehensive, holistic approach that brings multiple systems and partners together and promotes collective action.
- Provides a mechanism to identify and scale best practices, understand system shortcomings, and fill service and resource gaps.

We are deeply committed to our work of mobilizing caring to affect change. SB623 helps to make that possible. Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Anne Everson".

Dee Anne Everson
CEO/Executive Director