

Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development

State of Oregon

February 11, 2014

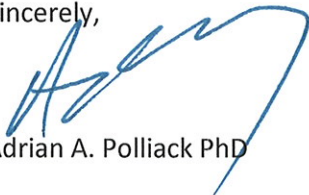
As a longstanding member of the Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio), I have seen firsthand the dramatic impact industry specific workforce training has had on Oregon's bioscience industry. As our own business has grown over the years, the incumbent worker training provided through Oregon Bio's unique BioPro workforce training program has allowed SAM Medical to continually upgrade critical employee skills. I am therefore pleased to testify in support of Senate Bill 1527; and its efforts to extend these same benefits to Oregon's dislocated workers.

Over the last four years, SAM Medical has participated as a member of the BioPro Industry Steering Committee and helped lead BioPro's curriculum design. Through the passage of Senate Bill 1527, the state of Oregon can accelerate the transition of unemployed engineers, biologists, project managers, marketing executives and other mid-career workers into our growing bioscience industry with immersion training in the critical areas of regulatory, quality control, and advanced manufacturing.

In discussing this issue with other participating BioPro committee members, many of whom represent their respective human resources departments, and working with Senator Devlin's office, the Oregon Bioscience Association developed this innovative "Applied STEM program". By augmenting the skills of these otherwise qualified workers with industry-specific technical training, we can help prepare them for productive roles in a new industry.

We believe by successfully implementing this Applied STEM program, with the help of our workforce training partners (the local workforce training boards), the program may represent a model for more effectively managing workers in transitioning from industries in decline into promising new careers.

Sincerely,



Adrian A. Polliack PhD

President