

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2531

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Chair Reardon & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of AOC I am here today to offer our support for HB 2531 – the Prosperity 1000 bill – and commend the Sponsor and his staff for the hard work and collaborative approach they have taken to craft the proposal before you.

As you have heard, this bill will tie workforce training to economic development opportunities in an area that has one of the highest poverty rates in Oregon. This community based approach is an innovation in how workforce training functions in Oregon.

Its value is a pilot approach that could be applied throughout the state of Oregon to pockets of poverty that have persisted. Traditional approaches to this problem have not worked and this kind of innovative approach needs to be tested on the ground.

AOC stands ready to assist in the convening of these efforts given County Commissioners unique convening authority in their communities.

We urge your support of HB 2531.