



OREGON & SOUTHERN IDAHO LABORERS-EMPLOYERS TRAINING TRUST FUND

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Testimony in Support of HB 4143

Aida Aranda

February 5, 2020

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4143.

My Name is Aida Aranda, Training Director of the Oregon Laborers' Apprenticeship Program.

I am here representing LiUNA Local 737 Construction Craft Laborers (CCL's)

I am a Construction Craft Laborer by trade and a 22-year member of LiUNA beginning my career in 1998 spending and spending over a decade in the field before working in various positions with my Union. I have been fortunate in mostly working with our Apprenticeship program since 2008. The reason I am here today to ask for your support on behalf of LiUNA and Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Our members perform some of the most diverse scopes of work in the construction industry:

From commercial buildings such as schools, Hotels, Hospitals, office buildings, stadiums & skyscrapers to infrastructure work such as bridges, dams, roads, highways, tunnels and pipelines and parks. We also lay pipe for water and sewer.

We do important environmental remediation work to keep our communities safe by removing asbestos and other hazardous waste materials from existing buildings and contaminated soils and waterways.

CCL's assist other trades in accomplishing their work, we are carpenter and mason tenders, we assist the operating engineers and many other specialty trades.

CCL's are often the first trade on job preparing the site for construction and often the last trade off the site.

Oregon's Construction Industry's Registered Apprenticeship system has long been considered the gold standard for skilled trades training in our state and has been in place and functioning with tremendous success for many decades.

The Oregon Laborers registered Apprenticeship program has been providing Oregon employers with their most important resource: a highly trained, safe and effective workforce since 1983.

- Our program provides comprehensive, rigorous and high-quality education using LIUNA Trainings accredited curriculum (International Accreditation Service- IAS) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification process for its instructors.
- *The Oregon Laborers' Apprenticeship program Consists of 4000 hours of paid on the job training & 360 hours of related classroom training.*
- *A progressive wage scale applies to each term as the apprentice gains skills and knowledge.*
- Among the High-quality industry standards our registered program must adhere to, are on the job supervision and safety requirements, training and continuity of employment.
- Upon successful completion of our program, graduates receive nationally recognized industry credentials as Journey level Construction Craft Laborers. Graduates can achieve college credit for successful completion of approved LIUNA Training courses
- Our apprenticeship program provides a diverse pool of workers for employers to develop a highly trained, safe and skilled Laborer workforce in every region of our state. We offer project specific training, mobile training, safety programs and new technologies.
- We have national resources we can use as needed, with over 70 affiliated training centers through the US and Canada, the Laborers Health and Safety fund helps in advancing industry roles in areas such as jobsite culture, suicide prevention, and the opioid epidemic affecting the industry to name a few.

LIUNA's program reflects the broader construction industry's long-standing apprenticeship training system that has been extensively developed and invested in throughout many years. Our current programs continue to set a high bar for quality training, strong oversight, accountability that lead to good family-sustaining, middle class careers.

HB 4143 is an important measure that will help preserve the continuing integrity of our existing registered apprenticeship programs by ensuring that state funds will not go towards new and untested Industry Recognized Apprenticeship programs that will not be held to the same quality, safety and oversight standards.

Before I conclude my testimony I want to share with you this experience; we just conducted apprentice applicant interviews yesterday, most of our applicants are referred by word of mouth, and the reasons I hear most from our applicants of why they want to join our program is that they simply want the opportunities we offer, training, careers, lifelong learning, good wages and good benefits so they can have a shot at the American Dream. I got my chance and I hope you did too, I am here to ask you to protect our Registered apprenticeships so we can continue to offer these opportunities to every Oregonian who wants a shot at it too.

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today and I would be happy to answer any questions

I urge your support for House Bill 4143.

Aida Aranda, Training Director