



Testimony on Senate Bill 623
Senate Education Committee
April 5, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee. My name is Karen Humelbaugh and I am the Director of the Office of Workforce Investments for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 623.

SB 623 in its original form had many elements, but at its core was a desire to assess the state's public workforce system in order to continuously improve our services to Oregonians and Oregon businesses.

State and local partners agreed to develop a workgroup that included Senator Frederick and Representative Reardon as sponsors of the bill in order to better refine what we are asking of the Legislative Assembly.

In cooperation with the sponsors, the group is bringing forward a strike all amendment to SB623 to reflect our current agreements:

1. There is a need to assess the effectiveness of the state's public workforce system- WorkSource Oregon. That assessment will provide the governor, legislature and state Workforce and Talent Development Board and Local Workforce Development Boards with information to promote the continuous improvement of the WorkSource Oregon System.
2. In collaboration with state agencies, Local Workforce Development Boards and the State Workforce and Talent Development Board shall create a Committee for Continuous Improvement.
3. The purpose of the Committee is to identify a third-party vendor to assess the public workforce system and develop recommendations for changes to improve the system. Membership will be jointly determined by the state and local boards.
4. An original assessment will take place in 2022, and in every subsequent even year.

5. The third-party assessment will:
 - a. Advance racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion
 - b. Align state and local goals and efforts
 - c. Support comprehensive system improvement
 - d. Improve the customer (job seeker and business) experience and promote equitable outcomes
 - e. Improve quality and transparency of WorkSource Oregon resources, program services and other performance data and system outcomes
 - f. Build on current program required assessments

6. The assessment will review programs and services delivered through the public workforce system—WorkSource Oregon.
 - a. WorkSource Oregon includes:
 - i. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (Office of Workforce Investments and Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development)
 - ii. Local Workforce Development Boards
 - iii. Oregon Employment Department
 - iv. Oregon Department of Human Services—Self Sufficiency Programs
 - v. Oregon Department of Human Services—Vocational Rehabilitation
 - vi. Oregon Commission for Blind
 - vii. Senior Community Service Employment Program
 - viii. Oregon Housing and Community Services
 - ix. Others as determined by the Committee

We are excited about this unified amendment framework and look forward to seeing SB 623 reflect these tenets.

Thank you for your time today.