



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:

As our region's federal and state authorized Local Workforce Development Board, the Rogue Workforce Partnership strongly supports SB623 because:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the steepest economic downturn since the Great Depression. And the major impacts from wildfire disaster has added even greater economic suffering.
- Over 130,000 Oregonians are still unemployed and the most severely impacted are less educated, low-wage individuals - especially women, communities of color, and younger workers.
- This circumstance of crisis has revealed **serious flaws** in the systems intended to serve and support Oregonians during difficult times.

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.

On behalf of our members and the many other community partners in our region, also supporting this bill, we ask that you please pass this legislation so we can provide help and resources to individuals in our community.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gomez,
Chair

Jessica Gomez | Founder & CEO
Rogue Valley Microdevices & RWP Chair

Mike Donnelly | Materials Manager
Carestream, Inc. & - RWP Vice-Chair

Kelsy Ausland | President / Design Operations
Manager *Ausland Group*
Robert Begg | Vice President Human Resources
Asante Health Systems

Scott Beveridge | Superintendent
Southern Oregon Education Service District

Susan Bruce | Labor Relations Rep
Oregon Nurses Association

Alex Campbell | Coordinator
Governor's Regional Solutions Team

Michael Card | President
Combined Transportation

Bret Champion | Superintendent
Medford School District (appointment pending)

Lance Corley | Apprenticeship Director
Crater Lake Electrical – JATC & IBEW 659

Shawn Hogan | Vice President Engineering
Linx Technologies

Nikki Jones | Owner
Express Employment Professionals

Brent Kell | Executive Director
Valley Immediate Care

Cathy Kemper-Pelle | President
Rogue Community College

Norm Kester | Chief Executive Officer
Quantum Innovations

Tom Keyser | Dean College of Engineering,
Technology, and Management
Oregon Institute of Technology

Kari Kingsolver | Area Manager
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Kirk Kolb | Superintendent
Grants Pass School District #7

Joe Myers | Vice President
Pacific Electrical Contractors

Matt Ochoa | Founder/CEO
Jefferson Packing

Linda Schott | President
Southern Oregon University

Sherri Stratton | Senior Manager
Oregon Employment Department

Drew Waits | Business Agent / Organizer
Plumbers & Steamfitters, UA 290

KimberLee Whitney | District Manager
Oregon Department of Human Services

Trever Yarrish | Chief Experience Officer
Zeal