

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

- Mayor Lacey Beaty**
City of Beaverton
- Mayor Brian Hodson**
City of Canby
- Mayor Jeffrey Dalin**
City of Cornelius
- Mayor Gery Schirado**
City of Durham
- Mayor Brian Cooper**
City of Fairview
- Mayor Peter Truax**
City of Forest Grove
- Mayor Tammy Stempel**
City of Gladstone
- Mayor Travis Stovall**
City of Gresham
- Mayor Tom Ellis**
City of Happy Valley
- Mayor Steve Callaway**
City of Hillsboro
- Mayor Ken Gibson**
City of King City
- Mayor Joe Buck**
City of Lake Oswego
- Mayor Mark Hardie**
City of Maywood Park
- Mayor Mark Gamba**
City of Milwaukie
- Mayor Teri Lenahan**
City of North Plains
- Mayor Ted Wheeler**
City of Portland
- Mayor Walt Williams**
City of Rivergrove
- Mayor Keith Mays**
City of Sherwood
- Mayor Jason Snider**
City of Tigard
- Mayor Randy Lauer**
City of Troutdale
- Mayor Frank Bubenik**
City of Tualatin
- Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle**
City of Vancouver (ex officio)
- Mayor Jules Walters**
City of West Linn
- Mayor Julie Fitzgerald**
City of Wilsonville
- Mayor Scott Harden**
City of Wood Village

Representative John Lively, Chair
 Representative Jami Cate, Vice-Chair
 Representative Jason Kropf, Vice-Chair
 House Committee on Economic Recovery & Prosperity

Re: Support for HB 2820

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Cate, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 2820, which will provide career coaching, occupational training and job placement services for at least 1,000 low-income job seekers residing in areas of concentrated poverty.

The economic hardships of COVID-19 have disproportionately affected the low-income Oregonians and communities of color who are already struggling to make ends meet. But even before the pandemic, many individuals and families were unable to afford rent and basic necessities despite being employed. Wages are simply not keeping up with Oregon's cost of living and high housing costs. The MMC supports the Prosperity 1,000 Pilot Program because it goes beyond providing financial assistance to Oregonians in need. It gives them the wraparound services and support necessary to help them find family-wage jobs and begin to climb out of poverty. We also appreciate the bill's efforts to direct these services to those Oregonians with the greatest need.

In addition to benefitting the individuals who participate in the program, the workforce development provided by HB 2820 will benefit the struggling economies of MMC cities and communities across the state. The mayors of the MMC recognize that this bill will provide only a fraction of the needed investment in workforce development, but it is a step in the right direction. We urge the Members of the Economic Recovery & Prosperity Committee to support HB 2820, which will make available the tools and resources necessary to help get individuals and families out of poverty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium