

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Haley McCoy and I graduated in the spring of 2021 from Portland State University with a Bachelors in film. I was fortunate enough to be brought on as a P.A. on the feature film Mother of Color shortly after graduating and I was excited to get some real world experience towards my career.

Shortly after starting, the Key Grip and Gaffer liked my enthusiasm and how helpful I was for their understaffed departments and asked if I could be permanently put on their team. They spoke so highly of me and the help I provided them that production immediately agreed to this. The only problem is, the film only budgeted for two people within the department, not three and seeing how I wasn't getting paid as a P.A. I still wouldn't be being paid for my labor.

Thankfully, with the Pathway Program they were able to not only pay me for my labor, but it also gave me the opportunity to get closer to my coworkers and make meaningful connections. I was pulling my weight to keep up and help in any way I can within the Grip and Electric department, and if the Pathway Program didn't exist, I would have nothing to show for it.

People deserve to be paid for their labor no matter how inexperienced, or new to the job they might be. I was fortunate enough to be paid for my first job, but others aren't so lucky and it hurts to know that so many people aren't getting the money they deserve because they don't have the budget. With more programs like this, more people will be able to follow their dreams and pursue a creative career without the fear of not having enough money to pay their rent.

Thank you for listening and I hope you support HB4153.

Haley McCoy