

Submitter: Joseph Cawley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4040

The Alberta Rose Theatre is an anchor business on NE Alberta Street in Portland for retail shops, art galleries, restaurants, and trades-work, creating hundreds of jobs and generating hundreds of thousands of dollars outside of our theatre.

Venues like ours provide a home for music, comedy, circus arts, theatre, story-telling, dance, radio shows, community events, podcasts, both local and globally for all nationalities, ages, sexes and economic backgrounds to enjoy together.

After reopening for 3 months following 20 months of closure, we again had to shut down our venue due to Omicron for the entire month of January. 2022 has been extremely difficult so far and the road to recovery is long.

- No industry was closed longer or is experiencing as long a hardship as ours - our numbers are still way, way down.

- Our communities need us to come back strong - we provide jobs, economic activity, culture, community, keep downtown areas vibrant and safe, etc.

- We appreciate what help we have received in order to survive, which helped us keep our core staff from going to other industries and states. But that funding is spent, times are as tough as ever, and we navigate a very difficult path to economic recovery.

Venues like the Alberta Rose are always stepping up to help in their communities by holding events and fundraisers for when it is needed. But after 12 years of building this community, we are now threatened by Omicron and the actions taken to prevent its' spread. Without financial support, our theatre and the economical foundation we provide is severely threatened. If we don't receive your financial help our neighborhood will suffer, our city will suffer, and ultimately our state will suffer.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Cawley  
Alberta Rose Theatre  
Portland, Oregon