

February 7, 2022

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

I'm an independent filmmaker and small business owner in Portland and a member of OMPA.

Last summer while in production on my forthcoming feature film, *Mother of Color*, our team was fortunate to hire four crew members for the roles of Set Dresser, Wardrobe Assistant, DIT and Company Grip through Oregon Film's Pathways Program.

The hiring of these young women (mostly women of color) afforded us the chance to have additional support on our set – support that can be hard to come by when you're an independent film scraping together financing. The money to hire them and the labor they provided were both critical in helping us get the film made.

But more than that, as a long time advocate for better inclusion in the film industry, it was important to me to contribute to the pipeline by giving women and minorities valuable experience to advance their careers. For each of them, it was the first time they had served in these roles (alongside mentors we provided), and the opportunity has already helped some of them get that next job at a higher level than if they hadn't worked with us.

I'm writing today in support of HB4153 which will directly affect the Pathways Program. Without a proper apprenticeship or official training program, it's a vital and unique way to promote equity in the film industry while also providing entry level experience for up and coming production crew.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

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