



OREGON WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

KIM PARKER-LLERENAS
OWP Chair
Willamette Workforce Partnership

ERIN CARPENTER
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

BRIDGET DAZEY
Clackamas Workforce Partnership

HEATHER DESART
OWP Vice-Chair
Northwest Oregon Works

ASHLEY ESPINOZA
Lane Workforce Partnership

HEATHER FICHT
East Cascade Works

ANDREW MCGOUGH
Work Systems Inc

HEATHER STAFFORD
Rogue Workforce Partnership

KYLE STEVENS
OWP Treasurer
Southwestern Oregon
Workforce Investment Board

February 22, 2023

RE Senate Bill 849

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 849.

The Oregon Workforce Partnership (OWP) is a nonprofit workforce policy and coordinating organization comprised of over 200 community leaders representing business, labor, community-based, education, public sector, and elected officials from Oregon's nine Local Workforce Development areas. Oregon has an integrated one-stop service delivery model to provide a flexible, unified workforce development system branded as WorkSource Oregon (WSO). OWP members coordinate, oversee, and invest in the local WSO centers to ensure all Oregonians have access to the skills, training and support necessary to obtain family sustaining careers and support the talent needs of local industry.

Senate Bill 849 advances opportunities for Oregonians, and we are eager to coordinate this work with the public workforce system. Severe labor shortages in critically important industries like Healthcare, Manufacturing and Information Technology could impede the State's pandemic recovery and long-term economic prosperity. SB 849 provides an opportunity to maximize the skills and experiences of all Oregonians and helps to address current workforce shortages. SB 849 provides a comprehensive pathway to internationally educated residents of Oregon who are eager to enter critical professions and address some of Oregon's most pressing and long-standing workforce challenges.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have or come before your committee to present additional information and share our collective vision to make Oregon a more prosperous place for all.

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Sincerely,

ERIN CARPENTER
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board



Kim Parker-Llerenas



Heather Desart



Erin Carpenter

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Ashley Espinoza



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