



Date: February 5, 2024

To: Chair and members of House Committee on Business and Labor  
From: Scott Bruun, VP Government Affairs, OBI  
RE: Support for HB 4118 / Youth Apprenticeship Study Requirement

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Good morning, Chair Holvey and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4118.

My name is Scott Bruun, and I am the VP of Government Affairs for Oregon Business & Industry, or "OBI." OBI is a statewide business association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600+ member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. OBI's primary mission is to strengthen the business climate in Oregon.

Oregon currently has a deficit of both usable information and efficient coordination related to youth apprentice and on-the-job training programs. These gaps adversely affect young Oregonians looking for job-entry opportunities and/or career pathways, as well as Oregon's employers who are desperate for sustainable solutions to workforce training and adequacy challenges.

HB 4118 would be an important tool to help meet those challenges. The bill requires BOLI to research, compile, and study youth apprenticeship programs across the country, then report those findings back to the legislature. With a focus on best practices, a report of this kind will give legislators a vital tool as it goes through the necessary process of reimagining and reengineering Oregon's inadequate youth apprenticeship programs.

This would be a positive step for Oregon's current and future young employees, and Oregon's employers. OBI urges your support of HB 4118.

Thank you.

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