

**HAI PHAM, DMD**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 36



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of HB 4154**

February 7th, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the House Higher Education committee.

For the record, my name is Hai Pham, State Representative for House District 36

This bill is one that I hold near and dear to my heart. As my parents and I arrived in the United States as refugees after the Vietnam War. They would take any job they could find, from housekeeping to yard work. They have always believed that the United States is the land of opportunity. And all they had to do was work hard to achieve it.

But It wasn't until my dad was able to learn English and put himself through school and pursued a career at Hewlett Packard in Corvallis that we were able to begin building generational wealth. The opportunity for him to take a competitive job opened the door for my siblings and I to pursue our dreams and goals. Today I have my own family that I am able to provide for and it all started with my dad being able to get an engineering degree at Oregon State.

With the passage of the CHIPS Act and SB 4 last session, and the recent news of semiconductor companies like Microchip, Intel, and Hewlett-Packard who have finalized contracts, Oregon continues to be a national leader in the semiconductor and high-tech manufacturing industry. The semiconductor industry is truly a catalyst and economic multiplier with the [National Semiconductor Industry](#) reporting that "for each US worker directly employed by the semiconductor industry, an additional 5.7 jobs are supported in the wider US economy."

Oregon alone is projecting the creation of 6,300 new jobs in the semiconductor industry and 1,000 construction jobs over the next several years. With these historic investments and the prospect of thousands of jobs, we as a state must take urgent action to prepare Oregon's workforce. And in conjunction with this, we must ensure that Oregonians from every corner of the state, including underserved communities - women, individuals of color, and veterans - can take advantage of high-wage jobs in building generational wealth.

HB 4154 creates a semiconductor industry consortium that will be tasked to create a comprehensive statewide strategy to guide investments and expand education and research pathways. The strategy will focus on creating a more diverse workforce, leverage private, state, and federal resources, and make recommendations to the HECC on the allocation of dollars.

The bill in total would allocate \$30 million dollars - \$5 million each to funds focused on STEM education and work-based learning intended to apply to programs in K-12, community college workforce training, and advanced degrees, and \$15 million in direct allocations to community colleges and universities to kick start strategic investments in infrastructure.

You'll hear today from the presenters as to why K-12 education is a critical partner in achieving our semiconductor workforce objectives for Oregon as well as the opportunities that exist along the workforce pipeline for individuals with community college and university training, certificates and degrees.

In closing, I want to thank Representatives Bynum, Sosa and Wallen for their leadership and for their strong advocacy in addition to the 28 members who have signed on to the bill for their bipartisan and bicameral support. Thank you for your time today, I urge you to support the passage of HB 4154.