

Dear Chair Janell Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Tony Hopson, and I am the CEO of Self Enhancement Inc, a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my full support for the Economic Equity Investment Act of 2024, HB 4041, proposed by Chair Janell Bynum.

As the CEO of an organization dedicated to empowering underserved communities, HB 4041 is a crucial step towards promoting economic development and supporting small businesses in our state. This bill presents an opportunity to create a more favorable environment for entrepreneurs and job growth, which will have a direct and positive impact on our economy.

HB 4041 provides targeted measures to alleviate the barriers faced by small businesses, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. By offering financial support, access to resources, and technical assistance, this bill will give these businesses the tools they need to thrive and contribute to our local economy.

In addition to the direct benefits to small businesses, HB 4041 also aligns with our overall mission of promoting self-enhancement and empowerment. It gives individuals within these communities the opportunity to break free from systemic barriers and build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

I fully support Chair Janell Bynum and the Committee's vision of creating an inclusive and diverse small business ecosystem in our state. The provisions laid out in HB 4041 will not only spur economic growth but also foster social equity and reduce disparities.

I urge you, as representatives entrusted with the responsibility of advancing our state's economy, to consider the potential impact of HB 4041. By supporting this bill, you will empower countless small businesses to flourish, create jobs, and enhance our local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will act in the best interests of our state and its residents by supporting this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

*Tony Hopson*

Tony Hopson,

CEO, Self Enhancement Inc