

Submitter: Joe McFerrin II

On Behalf Of: POIC

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4041

Chairwoman Bynum and distinguished members of the House Economic Development & Small Business committee, I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Joe McFerrin II and I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 4041, the Economic Equity Investment Act of 2024.

As the CEO of POIC (Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center) and Rosemary Anderson High School, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 4041, the Economic Equity Investment Act of 2024, that provides 30M dollars in grants to community based organizations and businesses to increase economic growth in Oregon.

At POIC and Rosemary Anderson High School, we have long been champions of economic equity and empowerment in our community. We understand the vital role that small businesses play in fostering economic growth, creating jobs, and driving innovation. However, we also recognize that not all entrepreneurs and business owners have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

We believe that HB 4041 represents a significant step towards addressing these disparities and promoting economic equity in our state. The act's provisions, such as increasing access to affordable capital and technical assistance for traditionally underserved communities, will help level the playing field and empower entrepreneurs from all backgrounds to thrive.

Chair Bynum, & Committee Members your leadership on the House Economic Development & Small Business Committee has been commendable, and we are grateful for your tireless efforts to promote economic fairness and opportunity.

We appreciate your dedication to advancing legislation that addresses the needs of our diverse business community like our students, women, rural entrepreneurs and veterans to ensure that everyone has a fair chance to succeed.

By supporting HB 4041, we believe that together we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in our state. This act has the potential to not only uplift underserved communities but also strengthen our economy as a whole.

On behalf of POIC and Rosemary Anderson High School, we pledge our full support

for HB 4041 and urge all members of this committee to consider its merits carefully. By voting in favor of this bill, we can take a significant stride towards creating a more equitable economic landscape for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Joe McFerrin  
CEO, POIC and Rosemary Anderson High School