

Date:	February 9th 2024
To:	Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Elmer, Members of the House Business and Labor Committee
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Michael Burdick
Subject:	AOC supports HB 4050

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4050. For the record, I am Michael Burdick, providing testimony on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC).

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is a non-partisan member organization that advocates on issues that unite county governing bodies and have an impact on county functions, governance, budgets, and/or services.

Many Oregon counties have serious problems hiring for key positions. We believe HB 4050 will help counties address these problems. Counties, particularly rural counties, face great difficulty recruiting. During the pandemic, counties were allowed to use hiring and retention bonuses to keep employees. That ability has expired.

Counties appreciated having that tool to be able to keep employees. HB 4050 is a small change to Oregon's landmark pay equity law that will really help employers and employees. We appreciate your taking time to hear this important bill, and we respectfully request that committee support it.

Thank you for considering AOC's testimony.