

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and advocate for the public good. **AFT-Oregon supports SB 1506 -1 and recommends the legislature pass this bill to sustainably fund Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).**

The BOLI budget has spent too long in a balancing act between political priorities and funding shortfalls. This bill creates a critically necessary fund paid for by a nominal assessment split between employees and employers to fund new and existing positions. A well-funded BOLI is good for ALL workers – not only AFT-Oregon members and their colleagues, but the families of the students we teach and the workers in the communities we serve.

A funding guarantee is needed for BOLI to maintain and grow their skilled staff. These personnel work hard each day to ensure Oregon is a state where workers are empowered, prevailing wage is supported, and labor violations have consequences. If funding is not secure and maintained, BOLI staff who perform critical functions to reduce the backlog will need to seek other roles. This pulls the rug out from under their ability to achieve the goal of eliminating the backlog in 2029.

Without this bill, addressing the issue may be more costly within the narrowing window between now and when the one-time funded positions expire at the end of the 2027-2029 biennium. **This means *now* is the most appropriate time to act by passing SB 1506 -1.**

We urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)