

Submitter: Naomi Bledsoe  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1512

To the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government:

I'm writing in support of SB 1512: Prosperity Programs. When Oregon invests in jobs, it strengthens families, communities, and our statewide economy. Prosperity Programs build on the success of Prosperity 10,000 (P10K)—with 9,285 Oregonians served to date, the program delivers extraordinary results. But the clock is ticking; current funding expires June 30, 2026. Renewed investment is essential to protect this proven infrastructure and keep Oregon economically competitive.

Prosperity Programs are a revenue-generating strategy, not an expense. The state's original \$35 million investment in P10K has generated a \$149.1 million return on investment over two years. Renewed investment translates to additional tax revenue for the state and continued reduction in social service costs.

Prosperity Programs reach people often left behind by traditional systems—women, people of color, veterans, rural residents, Oregonians with disabilities, and neighbors navigating barriers like housing instability or justice involvement. Participants aren't just completing training; they're landing family-wage jobs averaging \$22.73/hour, with most working full-time and earning more than Oregon's Self-Sufficiency Standard.

Prosperity Programs are set up to help your constituents directly. Local workforce development boards—like Worksystems in the Portland-metro region—tailor services to community needs (e.g., career coaching, skills training, wraparound supports, and paid work experiences).

SB 1512 strengthens the existing Prosperity Program infrastructure—expanding goals, centering equitable access, and setting clear benchmarks for completion and employment while establishing standards that ensure fair wages and strong training plans for participants.

I have personally witnessed students with disabilities achieve their employment goal by using support from Prosperity Program such as Worksystems in the Portland-metro area. Reynolds High School was lucky to have students participate in the Summer Work Program to gain competitive employment and transferable skills to join the workforce.

With federal workforce dollars down sharply over the last decade, Prosperity Programs are Oregon's most effective tool for connecting people to quality jobs and keeping our economy competitive. Thank you for your leadership and for supporting programs that deliver measurable results where they're needed most.

Sincerely,

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