



1/29/2026

Re: Support for HB 4116

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chaichi, Osborne, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Suzanne Veaudry Casaus, and I am the Manager of the Education Program at MESO (Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon), a nonprofit small business incubator serving under-resourced entrepreneurs across Oregon and Washington. We strongly support Oregon opting out of predatory lending practices and urge the Legislature to pass HB 4116.

MESO works directly with small business owners who are building livelihoods with limited access to capital, generational wealth, or traditional financial support. The entrepreneurs we serve—many of whom are BIPOC, women, immigrants, and first-time business owners—are deeply impacted by unfair and deceptive financial practices. Economic justice and strong consumer protections are essential to the long-term sustainability of their businesses and the communities they serve.

This bill is essential because it reaffirms Oregon's authority to regulate consumer finance loans made to Oregonians, including loans made online or by lenders located outside the state. By opting Oregon out of outdated federal provisions from the 1980s, HB 4116 ensures that lenders cannot evade state consumer protection laws simply by operating across state lines or exploiting federal preemption.

For the small business owners MESO supports, high-interest and predatory loans often appear as a last resort during moments of vulnerability—covering payroll, equipment repairs, or emergency expenses. We routinely see entrepreneurs trapped in cycles of debt caused by excessive interest rates and unclear loan terms, making it harder for them to stabilize their businesses, invest in growth, or contribute fully to the local economy.

For Oregonians more broadly, this legislation means stronger safeguards against abusive lending, clearer rules for lenders, and greater financial stability for families already facing rising costs of housing, food, and healthcare. It helps ensure that our financial system works for people—not against them—and that Oregon remains a leader in consumer protection.

Passing HB 4116 is a critical step toward building a marketplace where fairness, transparency, and consumer protection are the norm, and where all Oregonians—including small business owners—have the opportunity to achieve economic security.

For these reasons, MESO urges your support for this legislation. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Oregon consumers.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Veaudry Casaus
Manager, Education Program
MESO (Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon)