



To: Oregon State Legislators
From: Brent Balog, Interim Executive Director, CWP
Date: 2/5/2026
Subject: Support Continued Investment in *Prosperity Programs: SB 1512*

Dear Oregon Legislators,

As a representative of the state's public workforce system, I know this is a difficult time for our state budget, and that the economic challenges we face are unlikely to be resolved quickly or easily. I also know you have many competing priorities before you, and many other funding requests that are worthy, valuable, and would be beneficial to Oregonians and to our state. Many of the challenges facing Oregonians are rooted in personal financial insecurity and broad economic instability. We can debate whether these circumstances are the result of systemic barriers or personal choice. Either way, *Prosperity 10,000* (P10K) is a remedy.

One core role of Oregon's local workforce boards is to convene key stakeholders from across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, and facilitate collaborative approaches to resolving critical socio-economic and workforce challenges. This includes the strategic coordination of the systems of service and the institutions that impact Oregonians' daily lives. Local workforce boards help identify and leverage the existing strengths and resources available through these systems/institutions, and develop aligned approaches to service delivery. This ensures our collective resources can have the deepest impact, and can help remove the structural challenges that prevent individuals from successfully accessing and using services. P10K has strengthened coordination among service providers, has increased awareness of the public workforce system, and has enhanced the workforce system's multi-decade infrastructure by bringing in a variety of new resources, stakeholders, and service recipients.

Similarly, the programs developed and strengthened through P10K have helped move over 10,500 individuals out of economic uncertainty. This has not just involve traditional job training, short-term education, and job placement – but includes resources that help people learn other skills that are integral to their long term stability: financial literacy and responsible money management; pathways to housing stability; digital literacy and tech fluency; and the basic workplace skills that have been directly requested by employers and industry leaders.

The local workforce boards – through programs like P10K – work to address both the structural challenges that disrupt Oregonians' ability to enter into and maintain stable employment and contribute to the local economy **AND** provide opportunities for individuals to develop the skills needed to be responsible, self-sufficient community members. It is imperative – now more than ever – that we can continue doing both so that Oregon can continue offering a high quality of life to its residents and is economically competitive on the national and global stage. P10K can help make it happen.

I appreciate your consideration and your work on behalf of Oregonians.

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