

From: Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals.  
Re: Support of SB 1506  
Date: 2/4/26

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP). We are a labor union representing more than 7,000 nurses and health professionals across Oregon and Southwest Washington who care for patients, advocate for safe workplaces, and rely on strong labor standards to protect workers across all industries. OFNHP supports SB 1506 -1 and urges the Legislature to pass this bill to sustainably fund the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

For too long, BOLI's budget has been forced into a constant balancing act between political priorities and chronic funding shortfalls. SB 1506 -1 establishes a critically necessary, stable funding stream through a modest assessment shared by employees and employers to support both existing and new positions. A well-funded BOLI benefits all workers, not only union members, but also patients, families, and communities who depend on fair labor standards and safe, lawful workplaces.

A funding guarantee is essential for BOLI to retain and grow its skilled workforce. BOLI staff work every day to ensure Oregon is a state where workers are empowered, prevailing wage laws are enforced, and labor violations carry real consequences. Without secure and sustained funding, the staff responsible for addressing existing backlogs and enforcing worker protections may be forced to seek other employment, undermining the agency's ability to meet its goal of eliminating the backlog by 2029.

Failing to act now risks making the problem more costly in the future, particularly as one-time funded positions are set to expire at the end of the 2027–2029 biennium. SB 1506 -1 represents a proactive and responsible solution at a moment when timely action is critical.

We urge your support for SB 1506 -1 and thank you for your commitment to protecting Oregon's workers and strengthening the agencies that uphold labor standards statewide.

Sincerely,  
**Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals**