



23 February 2026

House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
Oregon Legislature

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Muñoz, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1512 - Support

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually, MWVCAA administers more than \$80 million in services and direct assistance supporting housing stability, homelessness response, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs for tens of thousands of Oregonians. Through our workforce development programs, MWVCAA supports individuals facing significant barriers to employment. We have served 169 individuals with workforce development support, filed expungements for 226 community members to remove barriers to employment, and in two cohorts helped 17 participants earn AWS Structural Welding credentials that open pathways to jobs starting at \$23 per hour.

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 1512, now before the House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. This bill strengthens and expands the Prosperity 10,000 workforce initiative and reinforces Oregon's commitment to locally driven workforce strategies that advance economic mobility. Statewide data show that a \$35 million investment has generated \$219 million in economic benefit, including new tax revenue and reduced public costs.

Prosperity 10,000 expands workforce access for individuals facing structural barriers to employment. At MWVCAA, this includes hands-on welding training, early childhood pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways, criminal record expungement clinics, and individualized career coaching. Together, these efforts support more than 1,000 individuals each year in moving toward stable, living-wage careers.

Prosperity 10,000 prioritizes lasting careers over short-term placements. It aligns training with real employer demand and pairs skills development with coordinated wraparound supports that make employment possible. Local workforce boards bring together business leaders, labor, education, and community partners to ensure investments reflect regional workforce needs.

Stable employment is one of the strongest predictors of long-term housing stability and reduced reliance on crisis systems. Workforce investments strengthen families while supporting employers and community economic health.

With current funding set to expire on June 30, 2026, timely action is needed to preserve this proven workforce infrastructure. As SB 1512 moves forward in the House, it represents an opportunity to continue building a workforce system that is robust, accountable, and grounded in local partnerships.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 1512. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to expanding opportunity for Oregonians across the state.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director