



CONSUMER ALLIANCE of Oregon

February 23, 2026

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee:

My name is Megan Quintrell, and I am testifying in strong support of HB 4116 on behalf of the Consumer Alliance of Oregon. We are a statewide coalition of community-based organizations, nonprofits, and national advocates. Our alliance works together to protect Oregonians in advancing fair, transparent, pro-consumer policies—centering communities that have been most harmed by predatory practices.

I want to begin with a simple truth: financial emergencies happen to everyone. A car breaks down, a medical bill arrives, and hours get cut at work. For many families, there are little to no savings to absorb the financial shock. When these moments hit, people with the least margin for error are not looking to take on risk- they are looking for stability- they need help. **When these financial emergencies arise, too often Oregonians are left with loan products that promise relief but ultimately push borrowers into harmful cycles of instability.**

Today, 98% of creditors operating in Oregon are complying with our 36% interest rate cap. There are lenders operating in Oregon right now- including institutions that serve people with low or no credit history who comply with Oregon law. **HB 4116 focuses on the small number of out-of-state lenders who exploit a federal loophole to sidestep Oregon law and charge excessive rates.**

Ensuring a fair marketplace requires identifying and addressing these harmful gaps, especially in an evolving, economically unstable environment. **HB 4116 restores local control and ensures that interest rate decisions are made by an elected, accountable body—not by online lenders charging rates upwards of 225%.**

We've heard the argument that this bill removes credit options. It does not. What it does remove are the harmful and predatory loan products- products that rely on consumers' financial distress in order to generate profit. When profit is tied to prolonged hardship, the harm is not incidental; it is built into the business model itself. **HB 4116 ensures that loans made to Oregonians are fair, transparent, and consistent with Oregon law.**

This bill is not about restricting opportunity; rather, it is about ensuring that when Oregonians seek help in a moment of vulnerability, the marketplace does not take

advantage of them. **Responsible access to credit and strong consumer protections can and should coexist in Oregon's marketplace.** The Consumer Alliance of Oregon urges your support for HB 4116.

Thank you,

Members of the Consumer Alliance of Oregon

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bienestar | NAYA Action Fund | Oregon Just Transition Alliance |
| Centro Cultural | Oregon Consumer League | SEIU |
| DevNW | Oregon Health Equity Alliance | Neighborhood Partnerships |
| Oregon Consumer Justice | OSPIRG | Coalition of Communities of |
| Disability Rights Oregon | AGE+ | Color |
| Leukemia & Lymphoma Society | Reimagine Oregon | Urban League of Portland |
| Micro Enterprise Services of | suma | United States of Care |
| Oregon (MESO) | | |