



# CENTRO

February 25, 2026

To: House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
Re: HB 4116 Opt Out of Predatory Lending

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

My name is Nansi Lopez, Policy Director at Centro Cultural. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Centro Cultural in support of HB 4116. We strongly support Oregon opting out of predatory lending practices and urge the Legislature to pass this important bill.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. It empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most impacted in our communities in everything we do, with a commitment to reducing barriers at every level of our work.

***Centro Cultural's Mission:*** *Centro empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity.*

Economic prosperity for the Latino community is often unattainable due to systemic barriers that keep the Latino community in unhealthy financial cycles. Predatory loans are part of the problem that prevents the Latino community from building savings and generational wealth. In Oregon, we must strive to dismantle any barriers that affect the prosperity of our community members. In Oregon, we all deserve to prosper and not be victims of predatory lending.



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Centro Cultural is the place where community members often come and share their stories of injustice and challenges as they navigate their daily lives.

Most recently, a community member shared that she was approached by a family member who desperately needed financial support. She applied for a loan with an interest rate of 99.5%. The loan with astronomical interest has not been paid off to date. It is a loan paid on a bi-weekly basis, which has caused financial hardship for her and her family.

Undoubtedly, these loans are very burdensome; no Oregonian should be coerced into accepting a loan with rates that cause such financial burden. Oregonians deserve to have fair lending regardless of their credit, especially from a credit system that often perpetuates systemic racial wealth gaps by producing lower scores for communities of color. Protecting families that are already living on the fringes of economic instability **MUST** be protected.

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, the bill ensures that lenders cannot evade state consumer protection laws simply by operating across state lines or exploiting federal preemption.

For Oregonians, 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 this bill is a critical step toward building a marketplace where **fairness, transparency, and consumer protection are the norm**, and where all Oregonians have the opportunity to achieve economic security. We urge your support of HB 4116. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities

Sincerely,



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