



February 23, 2026,

Gustavo J. Cruz, Jr.
Commission Chair

Marcelino J. Alvarez
Commissioner

Felisa Hagins
Commissioner

Serena Stoudamire Wesley
Commissioner

Vacant
Commissioner

Keith Wilson
Mayor

Cornell Wesley
Executive Director

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Muñoz and Scharf, and members of the House Committee On Labor and Workforce Development;

On behalf of Prosper Portland, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1512.

Prosper Portland serves as the City of Portland's economic development agency, working to build an equitable economy that creates opportunity for all Portlanders. A critical component of that work is ensuring that workforce development systems are accessible, culturally responsive, and aligned with the needs of communities and employers.

Senate Bill 1512 is an important policy measure that sustains a framework for workforce development services delivered through community-based organizations. This method of program delivery not only supports workforce training and job readiness services, but it also supports critical wraparound services responding to individual needs, enabling participants to successfully engage in, and complete workforce development programs.

Maintaining this program is critical to ensuring that local workforce systems can continue to leverage federal funding streams to deliver coordinated, community-rooted services that meet people where they are. By integrating workforce services with holistic supports, the program increases access, retention, and long-term employment outcomes for individuals who face systemic barriers to economic opportunity.

For these reasons, Prosper Portland urges your support of Senate Bill 1512.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cornell Wesley,
Executive Director

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