



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon House Passes Bill Supporting Small Business Development Throughout Oregon

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives has passed [House Bill 2152](#) which allows Small Business Development Centers to better connect with existing prospective small business owners from throughout Oregon.

The bill, carried by Rep. David Gomberg (D-Otis), passed with overwhelming, bipartisan support.

“Every year, 2,000 new employees are hired by small businesses in every corner of the state,” Rep. Gomberg said. “Under current state law, SBDCs are not allowed to market their resources to their community thereby limiting their reach. With this change, they will have the ability to utilize existing resources to better inform their communities and expand the reach and impact of their services to the people of Oregon.”

Since the creation of SBDCs in 1983, more than 156,000 business owners and prospective business owners have been provided with no-cost advising and assistance. More than 575,000 individuals have attended workshops and classes sponsored by the SBDC.

“As a small business owner, I know personally how important it is to have someone in your corner helping you succeed; SBDCs serve exactly that purpose,” said Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-Happy Valley). “This bill will help reduce barriers to entry and reach more Oregonians to let them know about the available services all across the state. I particularly look forward to seeing more women, and people of color, hear about the program and engage in entrepreneurship. Greater diversity in the make-up of businesses in Oregon will provide a wider range of ideas and innovation, strengthening our economy and our communities.”

The bill now moves to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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