

I voted against SB 1579 for the same reasons I voted against HB 4015. That particular bill would've increased the loan amounts from state funded loan programs to individual businesses from \$100,000 to \$1 M. Problems are usually not truly solved by making government bigger which ends up creating new sets of problems and tending to invite even more government interventions; and the cycle continues.

Throwing taxpayer money at non-profit entities to, in turn, attempt to solve the very serious issues facing too many in our state, will probably help a few individuals and certainly, the non-profits. But at what cost? Instead of creating more taxpayer-funded programs, we need to cooperatively uncover the primary reasons why some of our neighbors are far from thriving and flourishing. Following this assessment, we should get busy creating a positive combination of policies and re-thinking existing regulations that will help all our neighbors thrive and flourish. Decades of government-sponsored programs aimed at ending poverty, for example have failed. Lawmakers need to take a less government-centric view to solving problems and try different approaches. However, this is much more difficult to do than passing yet another government program, patting ourselves on the back saying, "look what we did" without actually getting at the primary reasons so many people are languishing in our great state. I predict we will be returning the next session to expand what is in this bill. Though there will be a few testimonials on the good that was accomplished, it will be found that we didn't spend enough money and also because "what we did" isn't actually working as well as expected. Again, at what cost? There has to be a better way.

*Kim Thatcher*

State Senator  
District 13

900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503.986.1713  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/thatcher](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/thatcher)  
[sen.kimthatcher@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.kimthatcher@oregonlegislature.gov)

Please note that all email sent to and from this email may be accessed by Senator Thatcher's personal staff, and may be subject to disclosure under public records law.