



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2024

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Boosting Economic Development Through Education and Childcare

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon Senate passed a suite of bills to support economic development and the semiconductor workforce through targeted investments in childcare and education. [House Bill 4098](#) establishes programs to support child care access, and [House Bill 4154](#) will support the development of Oregon’s semiconductor workforce through strategic planning, collaboration, and investment in training.

“Working parents rely on accessible, affordable childcare, yet almost every county in Oregon is a child care desert with less than one opening for every three children,” said **Senator Janeen Sollman (D - Hillsboro)**, chief sponsor of HB 4098. “In order to build our critical semiconductor industry and workforce, we must build up our child care infrastructure to match.”

[HB 4098](#) directs Business Oregon to establish a CHIPS Child Care Work Group, to develop recommendations for requiring businesses that receive state and federal semiconductor financial assistance to contribute to the CHIPS Child Care Fund. It also directs Business Oregon and BOLI to develop a program for providing financial support and child care subsidies to semiconductor construction workers.

“Building Oregon’s semiconductor industry will create thousands of family wage jobs,” said **Senator Wlinsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**, chief sponsor of HB 4154. “HB 4154 leverages critical public and private partnerships and programs in education and industry to bolster training throughout the state, ensuring that a highly-talented workforce is trained in Oregon – and stays in Oregon.”

In a more recent report, the [Semiconductor Workforce and Talent Assessment](#) found that the semiconductor and related manufacturing industry employs nearly 31,000 workers, with an average annual wage that's approximately two and a half times the average statewide wage. HB 4154 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish a statewide semiconductor industry consortium, and establishes the Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund in order to build an education-industry pipeline, and promote STEM in education.

Setting Oregon students up to succeed in the 21st Century and supporting Oregon's workforce were key pillars of Senate Democrats' [2024 Uniting Oregon Agenda](#). The bill now goes to the Governor's desk for consideration.

###