



From the Office of State Representative Mari Watanabe, House District 34

June 4, 2025

Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, Co-Chair Meek, and Co-Chair Gomberg,

We are asking for BOLI's full budget ask to be funded in order to take the first step in fixing the problems at the agency after years of legislative neglect and de-prioritization. The legislature has a duty to provide BOLI with the necessary resources to protect hard working Oregonians and their families. Oregonians are living with unsafe working conditions, wage theft, and civil rights issues with no real recourse due to BOLI's lack of capacity.

Fully funding their budget is the first step, the current investigative power has resulted in years of backlogs and even with a full budget—that backlog will only be reduced to 5 years. There are over 7,000 cases waiting to be investigated, and many of those will be dismissed—not because they do not have the merit, but because BOLI lacks the staffing capacity to complete the investigations. Filing a complaint with BOLI is the only recourse when litigation is not financially feasible or accessible. Wage theft is a very real, very common issue that we currently have the authority to stop, but not the resources. We are already starting to see workers not reporting their claims of wage theft, misclassification, harassment, civil violations, and safety violations. We must fund BOLI now to affirm the state Legislature's commitment to working families.

BOLI has been tasked with implementing 74 new laws over the course of the last 10 years, but only 10 of those were provided with the funding to execute them. The responsibilities of BOLI have only continued to expand, while funding has remained stagnant since the 1980s.

Working Oregonian's and their families are counting on us to make sure that their voices, lives, and livelihood are protected. It's time for us to stand up for Oregon's workers by fully funding our agency working tirelessly to bring them justice and needed financial relief.

Sincerely,

Representative Mari Watanabe

Representative Travis Nelson

Representative Rob Nosse

Representative Hai Pham

Representative Ed Diehl

Representative Kevin Mannix

Representative Emerson Levy

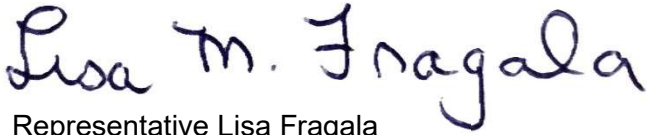
Representative Lesly Muñoz



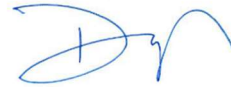
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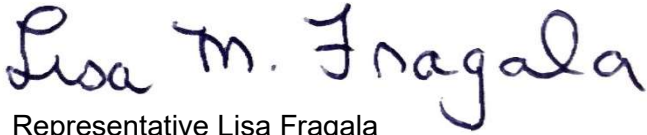
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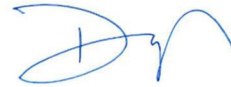
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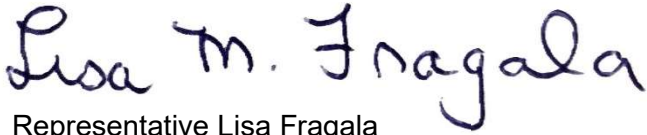
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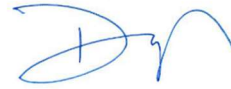
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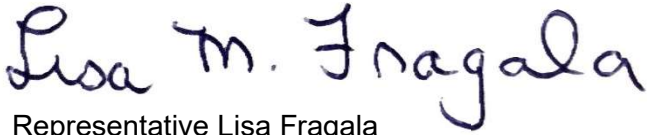
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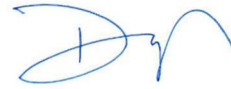
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