



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labor Commissioner Avakian will discuss economic competitiveness at Ashland Rotary Community forum will include legislative wrap-up and discussion of CTE investment

ASHLAND, OR—Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian will discuss the 2013 Legislative session and recent progress on career and technical education investment today at the Ashland Rotary Club.

What: Discussion of economic competitiveness and 2013 Legislative Session with Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian

When: Thursday, July 18th at 12:30 p.m.

Where: First Methodist Church, 175 N. Main, Ashland, OR

“What we saw in this legislature is a bipartisan group of lawmakers willing to make smart investments in our state’s competitiveness,” said Commissioner Avakian. “This legislature demonstrated an ability to come together to prioritize a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. They created new protections for vulnerable workers and support for Oregon businesses so that we can [have](#) a stronger, more prosperous state.”

Key legislation passed this session includes:

- Smart, targeted investment for 21st Century shop classes (SB 498)
- Closing the intern loophole so that unpaid interns have civil rights protection in the workplace (HB 2669)
- Creating new protections against discrimination in public places, including giving BOLI new tools to crack down on hate groups that try to intimidate the public (HB 2668)
- Taking a meaningful step toward pay equity by studying the wage gap that hurts Oregon workers (SB 744)

Labor Commissioner Avakian will be available for interviews following the session.

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About BOLI

The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and ensure access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.