

Senate Committee On Health Care and Human Services

Honorable Chair Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Senator Jeff Kruse, Members:
Senator Tim Knopp, Senator Chip Shields and Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward,

March 31st, 2013

Honorable Chairman Senator Anderson and Committee Members,

Thank you for your attention to my remarks today. I am Janice Dysinger from Gresham, Oregon.

I oppose SB 490

This bill is part of a national campaign that is based on difference in ideology, not actual harm done to community members.

This bill seeks to control the first amendment rights of free speech of non profit community outreach groups like pregnancy resource centers and their membership, that operate entirely on voluntary donations, completely outside of any government funding.

These compassionate non profit organizations are reaching out to help their fellow citizens meet basic needs, free of charge in times of difficulty. They help save the state lots of money by providing needed support through free services and gifts to their neighbors. This bill will prohibit professionals from volunteering their time and talents to their fellow citizens who need help.

Where is the complaint of harm done by these organizations to warrant any such restrictions or burdens? Why compel these organizations to incur additional expenses to state services they do not provide in their centers, websites, or sign-age?

The penalty fees set forth in this bill would invite arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement.

The state will incur additional costs to address compliance with these rules. In this time of downward revenues for the state. There is no reason to spend this money on non existent problems.

Most of all, SB490 stifles the compassion and love our communities need as we face struggles in these difficult times. We need to reach out to our neighbors in respect and loving friendship as often as is possible. This blesses both the giver and the recipient. Our communities are enriched when kindness and compassion are the motivating factors to meet basic human needs, instead of corporate profit.

Respectfully,
Janice Dysinger