

Good afternoon House Revenue Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2456, which would eliminate the Oregon tax deduction for charitable donations.

I disagree with this bill. I volunteer for nonprofits, I have worked at nonprofits, I donate to nonprofits, and I'm earning a Master's degree with a nonprofit specialization. I think it goes without saying that I am a supporter and believer in what nonprofits do. I have multiple issues with this bill, but the most important one is this: the nonprofit industry as a whole, and especially in Oregon, is facing unprecedented challenges. Funding from most sources is becoming more constricted while at the same time the demand for services is increasing. Nonprofits are increasingly filling the gaps in services that government can't provide.

I don't need to tell you that the economic realities in Oregon for many of our citizens are not improving, and in fact, are getting worse. Nonprofits are more important now than ever, and more of our friends, family and neighbors are relying on them simply to get by. To negatively affect one of the nonprofit sector's revenue sources--especially now--seems incredibly short-sighted.

I strongly urge you to extend the tax deduction for charitable donations. Nonprofits need every dollar in order to help Oregon's citizens. Their efforts should be encouraged, not penalized.

Thank you,  
Melanie Bennett  
Milwaukie, Oregon