



THE NONPROFIT
ASSOCIATION OF
OREGON

**Testimony of Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Nonprofit Association of Oregon**

HB 2802
February 16, 2023
House Committee on Higher Education

The Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) supports the passage of HB 2802.

NAO is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization representing over 1,550 charitable nonprofit organizations and affiliate members across Oregon. Our members are located throughout the state and come from all areas of the nonprofit sector serving our communities, including education, health and human services, the arts, and environmental protection. NAO's mission is to strengthen the collective voice, leadership and capacity of Oregon nonprofits to enrich the lives of all Oregonians. More information about our many programs and services can be found at www.nonprofitoregon.org.

Nonprofit workforce shortage impacts nation

In its December 2021 report, the [National Council of Nonprofits](#) found that three of four nonprofits reported job vacancies greater than ten percent. An astonishing forty-two percent of nonprofits reported twenty percent or more of their positions open. Despite a strong labor market, nonprofits are having trouble hiring and retaining staff. Here in Oregon, the exhaustion from the pandemic, low wages, and high living expenses such as childcare and housing are some of the reasons workers are leaving their nonprofit jobs. In 2023, workforce shortage in the nonprofit sector still remains. The results are that nonprofits are unable to deliver important services at a level that communities come to rely on such as human services, health care, and other needs. If nonprofits cannot hire and retain employees, Oregon stands to lose on its ability to tackle the affordable housing and mental health crises.

HB 2802 Helps with Workforce Shortage

This bill can be helpful to nonprofits that seek the energy of college students with a passion for public service to fill short term staffing needs. Creating a pilot project at Eastern Oregon University would help fill nonprofit jobs by growing the job pool in rural Oregon where it can be difficult to find enough employees. Locating another pilot project at Portland State University takes advantage of the concentration of nonprofit employers looking to hire in the Portland metro area. Lastly, HB 2802 provides much needed wage support for nonprofits to help pay for these college students' work.

For all of the above reasons, NAO supports the passage of HB 2802.