



March 1, 2023

Senate Human Services Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act**

Dear Committee Members:

Bradley Angle asks you to pass SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act. Your support is critical to the health of the nonprofit sector and the communities they serve.

In 1975, Bradley Angle opened as one of a handful of domestic violence shelters in the country and the first domestic violence shelter on the West Coast. In the last 48 years, Bradley Angle has evolved from a small grassroots program into a multi-faceted organization providing a rich continuum of essential services to survivors and their children. Because Bradley Angle was an early leader in domestic violence survivor services, we helped establish many standards and practices now widely used by domestic violence providers. Our passion and experience serving marginalized and underrepresented communities led to the creation of numerous groundbreaking programs. Bradley Angle's services include but are not limited to, emergency shelter, long- and short-term housing and financial assistance, financial literacy and employment education, culturally specific advocacy for Black/African American and LGBTQ communities, culturally specific counseling, support groups, and youth programs.

As an agency that has been around since 1975 we have stood the test of time, government contracting, and bureaucracy that many agencies cannot overcome. The social environment we exist in on a daily basis in Oregon is cutthroat and compassionate in equal parts. Resources are scarce. Sustainable funding is often an elusive marker we are chasing so that we can keep Oregonians employed and domestic violence survivors alive. We have experienced waves of turnover in the last decade that have resulted in very challenging times with a near closer in 2019. At that time we were experiencing a 6 month waiting period before we could get paid from a government entity in our state who we were under contract to serve. When we reached out to the Governor's office for emergency aid none was offered. We made it due to the resilience of individuals on my team.

Since 2020 there has been a great deal of additional energy dedicated to the topic of better pay for our workforce with limited understanding in offices outside of our own, that our staff are

needed to meet requirements and disburse emergency funding for our participants. During the pandemic the need to get emergency funding out the door directly to our participants resulted in us supporting survivors with direct assistance to the tune of 100K more in a single quarter than ever in our past history. How did we achieve this? Because our staff hung on despite being underpaid for their direct service due to unrealistic caps and budget restrictions that are placed on nonprofits who operate under government contracts. Due to prolific justifications we have witnessed by numerous local and state government agencies as to why our contracts cannot pay better rates for our workforce, instead of implementing adequate contract rates, the nonprofit sector in our state is in a tailspin. Many politicians exploit the work of phenomenally effective nonprofits as a mechanism to gain votes and prove their own work. This is a myth. If a member of this body finds themselves in the same room as a Bradley Angle employee please thank them for their perseverance to our mission.

Bradley Angle must be able to generate more funding to support our staff. Without our staff there is no service. Many of our staff have been head-hunted by government entities we partner with and they are offered a more equitable salary than we ourselves are able. The significance of this irony is not lost on me when the reason we cannot pay better wages are because of budget restrictions coming out of the same offices they have just been hired to support. When staff are lost services suffer. Space to negotiate contract terms are as elusive as equitable compensation rates for non-profit organizations in our state. This patchwork is broken and there are solutions. The possibilities are endless and are long overdue. The following is a short list of first steps we can take together to ensure a healthier nonprofit ecosystem in Oregon.

- Requiring disbursement of contract funds within 30-days of signed contract.
- Requiring a de minimis administrative rate of 10 percent or higher.
- Eliminating reimbursement as a form of payment for state grants.
- Creating the Nonprofit Workforce Retention Fund to provide grants nonprofits to help maintain and prevent employee turnover.
- Creating an action oriented state task force to reform nonprofit contracting in order to streamline and simplify the process, raise wages, and create an ecosystem of administrative policies, statutes and funding levels that lead to sustainable government/nonprofit partnerships.

We have the ability to come together in our state across party lines and bureaucratic barriers to put agencies who are the first to serve in a priority position to retain our workforce. Bradley Angle appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bri Condon, M.A  
Executive Director

Bradley Angle