



community alliance of tenants

March 1, 2023

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

Dear Committee Members:

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

The Community Alliance of Tenants 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.

As the membership-based statewide association of tenants, we educate and empower tenants to demand safe, stable, and affordable rental homes. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies.

In this year we have experienced a need to grow to meet the needs of our community while at the same time finding difficulty finding the right candidates. For example, we are recruiting for an executive position and we are learning that we are not only competing in our local job market but also competing against wages in larger markets like San Francisco, and Seattle. This is happening because those markets can find cheaper labor here with the same quality of experience and employees are finding that they can demand higher wages when willing to work remotely. And with the recent surge of inflation, all of our entry-level positions are truly hurting from the fact that we do not have enough financial cushion to respond to inflation with wage increases. We are suggesting the following changes to help non-profits be successful partners in this work.

- Requiring a de minimis administrative rate of 10 percent or higher
- Eliminating reimbursement as a form of payment for state grants
- Requiring disbursement of contract funds within 30-days of signed contract
- Creating the Nonprofit Workforce Retention Fund to provide grants nonprofits to help maintain and prevent employee turnover
- Creating a 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)

The Community Alliance of Tenants appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty
Executive Director
Community Alliance of Tenants