



OUR JUST FUTURE

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ourjustfuture.org



March 1, 2023

Sent Electronically

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

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-chair Robinson, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Our Just Future, please accept this testimony in support of SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act. Your support is critical to the health of the nonprofit sector and the communities they serve. Nonprofits, like Our Just Future, provide critical public services that promote the well-being of Oregonians every day, providing for basic needs like food and shelter, offering opportunities for education and economic advancement, supporting arts and culture, protecting civil rights, and so much more. Now is the time to support these essential services and the people who work so hard to improve the lives of Oregonians.

In our home and the heart of our investments - East Portland/East Multnomah County, Oregon - Our Just Future counters the forces that keep people and communities in poverty by building relationships and assets that create opportunity – today and for future generations. We partner with people and communities impacted by poverty and homelessness so they can achieve long-term housing and economic security. We invest in affordable housing and community assets that contribute to strong, inclusive neighborhoods. And we advocate with our community for policies and investments that expand housing and economic opportunity, eliminate wealth inequality and end poverty.

Sadly, at the very time Oregon is investing vital public resources in safety net services in hopes for addressing critical priorities like homelessness and violence prevention, the nonprofit sector we call on to deliver essential services like shelter and housing assistance is losing employees faster than even the private sector. While our dedicated workforce loves their work, underfunded public contracts have led to staffing shortages caused by low wages, constrained employee benefits, understaffing and resulting secondary trauma. State and local contracts often come with burdensome reporting requirements, unrealistic caps in funding administrative and overhead costs and compliance requirements that mean staff spend more time in front of screens and less with the people they are trying to assist. We have experienced all of these impacts first hand at Our Just Future, including double-digit vacancies in critical front line positions due to low wages and increasingly difficult working conditions.

We urge the passage of SB 606 because of the following elements that will positively impact Our Just Future, other nonprofits across the state, and the communities we serve:

- Requiring a de minimis administrative rate of 10 percent or higher

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Human Solutions



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- 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

We believe this is a critical moment in our state to improve the delivery in publicly funded services and infrastructure by investing more fairly and effectively in the people and nonprofit organizations we are asking to create the change we want to see.

Our Just Future appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Andy Miller, Executive Director

Our Just Future