



March 1, 2023

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

Dear Committee Members:

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (OSCI) 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.

OSCI is a disability-founded and -led nonprofit that works to ensure everyone with a spinal cord injury has the care and community they need to thrive. We are the only community-based organization serving this population.

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection employs people with SCI as community health workers CHW to serve the physical disability community. They facilitate access to care and community by providing coordinated case management for people living with paralysis, building a strong disability community, and providing relevant education.

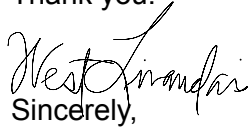
The contracting challenges we face in working with State institutions is cumbersome, slow, and redundant at times. This has resulted in employees being laid off, being reimbursed late, not being able to pay our bills on time, and generally having to navigate a complex and confusing application process.

The Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act would support the health and longevity of our work in Oregon by requiring a minimum administrative rate of 10% and would eliminate reimbursement as a form of payment for state grants. It also proposes to create a Nonprofit Workforce Retention Fund, which would provide grants to nonprofits to help maintain and prevent employee turnover. This legislation would also create 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 need this!

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "West Livaudais".

Sincerely,

West Livaudais
Executive Director
Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection