



Family Building Blocks

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER



March 5, 2023

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

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Dear Committee Members:



Family Building Blocks respectfully and urgently requests you to pass SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act. Your support is critical to the efficacy and stability of the nonprofit sector and the communities they serve.

Family Building Blocks is the Relief Nursery serving Marion and Polk counties. Our mission is to “Keep Children Safe and Families Together.” Our Relief Nurseries are located in Salem, Stayton, Independence, and Woodburn. We also serve families through Healthy Families of Oregon, Early Head Start and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten – all critical programs for children under the age of six and their families. All children and families in our programs have access to our Family Mental Health Program. We serve over 850 families with over 1,300 children annually, 99% of which remain living safely together, avoiding foster care.



Each biennium, our organization has waited months for reimbursement under our state contracts. Most times, we are told it is because our contracts are “stuck” in the procurement process. We have been placed in the position of floating the state funding with private funds or accessing our reserves. We have never delayed services to children and families during these times. We are fortunate in this instance, as many smaller, less resourced organizations may not have that ability.



Any for-profit company would stop delivering services if they were not getting paid. Non-profits should not be put in this position, especially by the state.

In addition, as an organization operating three early childhood child abuse prevention programs, it is essential we receive funding to pay staff equitably across programs. Oregon’s Equal Pay Act requires us to do so, or face litigation. In addition, turnover is expensive, drawing trained staff away and requiring training of new staff. This is also damaging to the relationships we have built with children and their families.

SB 606 can help lower many of the bureaucratic hurdles by:

- 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 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)

Family Building Blocks appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrice Altenhofen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Patrice Altenhofen
Executive Director