



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 15, 2023

To the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Brad Russell, and I am the Executive Director of the Rogue Valley Family YMCA in Medford. I am writing today to urge you to pass Senate Bill 606, the Nonprofit Modernization Act. Nonprofits 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 our civil rights, and so much more.

Many of the bills being advocated for this legislative session are dependent on grants and contracts with the nonprofit sector. If we don't address the underlying issues facing the sector, including underinvestment and administrative burden, we are not setting up any of these programs for success. To deliver on these contracts, Oregon's nonprofits need more support from the State for workforce recruitment and retention.

Our YMCA provides about a 100 different programs for about 20,000 people each year throughout 12 towns in Southern Oregon. One of our most important efforts is providing child care for working families.

To all of our disadvantage, nonprofits face a daunting barrier to fulfilling our essential role on behalf of the state. Nonprofits cannot exist without nonprofit employees, and nonprofit employees have an incredibly high rate of burnout and turnover.

One of our YMCA's struggles right now is retaining staff and recruiting volunteers. The existing staff has to work many more hours to cover our communities' needs. Due in part to the current structure and requirements of state contracts, as well as low pay, heavy workload, understaffing, and other stressors, nonprofit employees are leaving the sector to seek higher pay and better benefits elsewhere.

The need to invest in the sector is now. Investment this year will improve our ability to recruit and retain staff into the future and for the pressing priorities that have been put forward by the Governor. By supporting Oregon's nonprofits, you support the well-being of Oregonians.

Please pass Senate Bill 606 and invest in the sector that you are so dependent upon for the state's success.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brad Russell, *CEO/Executive Director*

**Rogue Valley Family YMCA**



522 West Sixth Street, Medford, OR 97501 – 541.772.6295 – fax 541.772.8427 - [www.rvymca.org](http://www.rvymca.org)