



March 1, 2023

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

Dear Committee Members::

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Raíces de Bienestar 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.

Raíces de Bienestar's mission is to improve and strengthen the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the Latina/o/x/e community through culturally-grounded, evidence-based practices, interventions, education and capacity building activities.

Raíces de Bienestar was founded in 2021, based on the need for culturally rooted and responsive mental health services and programs. We have encountered challenges that reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of procuring government funding that supports our work. Primarily, the complexity of applications and reporting requirements and the reimbursement process of some State grants takes an extreme amount of time and capacity from our small team. This time could otherwise be dedicated to serving the community and advancing our mission.

The Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act can make a difference to Raíces de Bienestar and our Oregon Latina/o/x/e communities. Specifically, eliminating the reimbursement as a form of payment for state grants and requiring the disbursement of funds within 30-days would be a relief for a small non-profit like ours who pours hours into fund development and is a trusted and reliable steward for these funds to best serve the community. In addition, the Workforce Retention Fund to prevent employee turnover would be a great asset to our organization. Raíces de Bienestar provides culturally specific mental health services to individuals and families that are un- and un-insured that Oregon's well-funded health systems do not. We must be able to retain our workforce and pay wages for them to thrive so that these services do not cease to operate.

Raíces de Bienestar appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Lerner, MPH  
Director Operations & Co-Founder  
Raíces de Bienestar