



March 6, 2023

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

Dear Committee Members::

RE: SB 606 - Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

The Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries asks you to pass SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act. This act has the potential to transform Oregon's future and ensuring that thousands of children and families get the services they need.

Sixteen Relief Nurseries across Oregon provide critical child abuse prevention services at thirty-eight sites. These services ensure that over **1700 vulnerable families** have the support they need to keep their children safe and their families together. As a public-private partnership, 51-75% of the funds they need comes from the state Department of Education, soon the Department of Early Learning and Care.

Every year without fail, these nonprofits have to use private funds or *take out a line of credit* to pay for services while they wait three to six months to receive grants from the state. This has a disproportionate impact on Relief Nurseries in rural or frontier communities where private reserves are simply not available. It is paramount that we fix the bureaucratic inefficiencies that are preventing these life-saving services.

SB 606 would eliminate thousands of wasted hours, which in money, on tedious reimbursement forms and ensuring that contracts are delivered and signed in a reasonable timeframe. The employee retention fund and a state task force will work in tandem to ensure nonprofit employees have equitable pay and that this critical workforce remains not only stable but fairly remunerated for their essential work.

OARN appreciates your consideration of SB 606 and would be happy to discuss further the implications of this act on our workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara Copeland".

Cara Copeland
OARN Executive Director