



March 6, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee On Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: In support of SB 606 – Nonprofit Modernization Act

Dear Chair Blouin and Members of the Committee:

New Narrative urges you to pass SB 606, the Nonprofit Modernization Act. Your support is critical to helping our organization serve our community.

New Narrative (NN), formerly known as Luke-Dorf, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, integrative mental health provider focused on the social determinants of health operating in Washington and Multnomah counties, within the greater Portland Metro area. NN operates nearly 40 sites, which include outpatient and residential mental health treatment, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and peer support programs. Our mission is to provide resources so people seeking mental health care can develop the “tools to thrive, not just survive.” Serving over 3,000 people annually, and with over 300 employees, we envision a future where everyone seeking mental health care can live the life they choose. We consider ourselves strong stewards of public funds. In order to most efficiently serve our community, we must be able to update our contracting practices.

Over 42% of our staff report lived experience. Many are still living on the edge. Providing better pay and benefits would help stabilize our staff and reduce turnover.

The Nonprofit Modernization Act provides easy and simple changes to government contracting practices that can be implemented right away and have an immediate impact. It establishes a needed Nonprofit Task Force to take a close look at streamlining and simplifying state contracting, improving payment delivery, reducing burdensome reporting requirements, and raising nonprofit wages to improve employee retention in the long-term. And finally, the bill establishes a Workforce Retention Fund to help nonprofits retain employees in the short-term. By removing the red tape, agencies such as ours will be better able to serve our communities.

New Narrative appreciates your consideration of SB 606 and urge you to pass the bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Ibrahim, CEO