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Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

EIN: 93-0395591



March 7, 2023

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

Dear Committee Members:

RE: SB 606 – Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Volunteers of America Oregon wholeheartedly supports SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act, and we ask that you pass this bill, which will have an immense and positive impact on the health of our state's nonprofit sector and the communities that we serve.

Volunteers of America Oregon's mission is to enhance lives by promoting self-determination, building strong communities, and standing for social justice. We have delivered effective and responsive services to vulnerable individuals and families in the Portland metropolitan area for over 127 years. We address some of our community's most pressing social issues, prioritizing individuals who struggle with substance use and mental health disorders, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, families and youth who need extra support, and justice-involved youth and adults. Our team of over 250 staff and 100 volunteers provide essential resources, support, and treatment to over 18,000 people each year through a wide range of programs and services including family relief nurseries; problem gambling and substance use prevention services for youth; housing and advocacy for survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

Our organization has diverse funding streams, which include multiple grants and contracts with the State of Oregon. Managing these grants and contracts requires a significant time investment by our staff as they navigate complex and inconsistent application processes, enormous delays in response times from state agencies, and incredibly burdensome and inconsistent reporting requirements.

The Nonprofit Modernization Act is vital to ensuring that Oregon's nonprofit organizations remain healthy and attentive to the needs of our communities. The creation of a state task force to reform the state's contracting process will be vital to identifying and addressing the policies and processes that need improvement, which will benefit both nonprofits and state agencies and strengthen our partnerships. Further, by requiring the disbursement of funding within 30 days of a signed contract, this will reduce the financial burden that nonprofits currently face as they wait – often



for lengthy periods of time – for the state to reimburse expenses for work that the state has contracted with nonprofits to do.

On behalf of Volunteers of America Oregon, thank you for your consideration of SB 606. Nonprofits play a critical role in the lives of Oregonians, and this bill will ensure that nonprofits can continue and sustain our vital and necessary work into the future. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kay D. Toran'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized.

Kay Toran
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Volunteers of America Oregon

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