



Nonprofit Association of Oregon
4800 S Macadam Ave. Ste 325
Portland, OR 97239
www.nonprofitoregon.org

**Testimony in Support of SB 546
Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Nonprofit Association of Oregon**

January 27, 2025
Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

NAO is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization representing over 1,100 charitable nonprofit organizations and affiliate members across Oregon. Our members are located throughout the state and come from all areas of the nonprofit sector serving our communities, including education, disaster recovery, health and human services, the arts, and environmental protection and veterans' services. NAO's mission is to strengthen the collective voice, leadership and capacity of Oregon nonprofits to enrich the lives of all Oregonians. More information about our many programs and services can be found at www.nonprofitoregon.org.

NAO sees the charitable check-off program as an important tax incentive that encourage community members to financially support their local and statewide charitable nonprofits. The purpose of the legislation is to modernize the signature requirement for qualified charities to receive contributions during tax filing by means of checkoff through the **Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program (OCCP)**. By doing so, it would simplify the process for a great number of Oregonians to support nonprofits through charitable donations as provided by the OCCP.

Currently, a nonprofit would need to collect 10,000 signatures from registered Oregon voters as part of the requirements to qualify for the OCCP. Gathering signatures takes a lot of effort for a nonprofit and is an expensive undertaking. To meet that kind of threshold, a nonprofit would need to invest resources of between \$100,000 to \$200,000 to hire a contractor to collect signatures. Additionally, due to the possibility of discrepancies like duplicates or invalid signatures, the real collection totals for number of signatures are higher – sometimes much higher and therefore cause higher costs that are better spent on the nonprofit's mission. Signatures are also only valid for two years and must be collected in person, a particularly restrictive requirement which punishes rural communities or organizations that have a mission that would appeal to many Oregonians but are just not able to move across Oregon's vast geography. Allowing signatures to be collected electronically saves valuable time and money for a nonprofit and leans into the equitable values of being inclusive of all voices no matter where people live in whether it is Ashland, Rickreall, Ontario, or Oregon City.

We work alongside many outstanding Oregon-based 501(c)3 organizations that enrich lives and build vitally needed resources for the people of Oregon. Nonprofits serve our state in unique ways that cannot be replicated by the government or by the private sector. The strength of Oregon's charitable sector is more important today than ever. For all of these reasons, we support the passage of SB 546.