



January 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 546 - Modernizing signature collection for Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program participation

Dear Chair Meek and committee members,

I would like to respectfully request your support of SB 546 with a do-pass vote at the hearing scheduled for January 27, 2025. The purpose of SB 546 is to modernize the signature requirement for qualified charities to receive contributions during tax filing using the **Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program (OCCP)**.

Oregon-based 501(c)3 organizations 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.

The current requirements are inequitable, inefficient and onerous – no new charities have been added by the Oregon Charitable Checkoff Commission (OCCP) in almost ten years. The last charity to apply and be accepted by the OCCP Commission did so, not through a grass-roots method, but by contracting with a paid signature collection service, demonstrating the impractical nature of the current rules.

Current estimates for hiring contractors to secure the required 10,000 in-person signatures range \$100,000 to \$200,000 +. Those funds could be better used to fulfill state priorities. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you would like to discuss how SB 546 can make Oregon's Charitable Checkoff program more equitable and productive for communities across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria A. Reyes", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Maria A. Reyes, Councilor