



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**  
EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION



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**Statement of Support:  
SB 546  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
January 27, 2025**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), formed in 1957, offers an annual training conference for volunteers, both members and non-members, providing hands-on and classroom training as well as networking opportunities. These conferences rotate around the state, helping educate and train Oregon's 8,760 volunteer firefighters who must adhere to the same training requirements as paid career firefighters.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the legislature passed SB 378, which exempts the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, like the Oregon Veterans' Home, the Nongame Wildlife Fund, the Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund, the Oregon Military Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund, from the requirement to have banked \$1,000,000 in order to be listed on the tax checkoff form. However, the Association is still required to gather 10,000 signatures of support.

The OVFA made two attempts to collect signatures but fell short both times. In 2019, the Association was approached by a large organization that offered to assist in signature gathering; however, due to COVID, the large gatherings planned had to be cancelled. SB 546 would allow OVFA and other charitable organizations to gather the required signatures electronically, eliminating the need for large gatherings and extensive travel.

The OVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization that at one time provided hardship grants, death benefits, equipment grants, and textbook grants for member and non-member volunteer firefighters and their family members, as well as contributions to much needed training. These are just a few of the charitable contributions by the OVFA and, while some of these practices have survived, they have been drastically curtailed due to financial constraints.

SB 546 provides an excellent way to support the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association at no cost to the State. On behalf of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, we thank you for your support of SB 546.