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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3213

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3213
Oregon State House Committee on Higher Education

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Anthony Petchel, and I live in Clackamas County, House District 40. I am a nonprofit consultant, former fundraiser, and President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Oregon & SW Washington Chapter. I am also an adjunct professor at Portland State University, where I teach master's level courses in nonprofit and government finance and nonprofit fundraising.

I am here today speaking as an individual to express my strong opposition to HB 3213, which I believe sets a dangerous precedent for nonprofit organizations in Oregon. This bill creates a troubling double standard for the sector and imposes costly administrative burdens on nonprofit's based on their mission.

This bill unfairly singles out university foundations for public disclosure requirements, despite the fact that they are independent organizations already held to rigorous transparency standards. As 501c3 public charities, university foundations already file publicly disclosed IRS Form 990s and provide audited financial statements.

At its core, philanthropy is built on trust. Philanthropy is a deeply personal decision, one that demands the highest level of ethics and confidentiality from fundraising professionals. Donors give because they believe in an institution's mission, and they expect their contributions to have an impact and be stewarded responsibly. If public University donors fear their giving decisions will be politicized and exposed to public scrutiny, they will likely take their philanthropy elsewhere.

501c3 nonprofits across Oregon, just like the PSU Foundation, rely on private individual giving to fulfill their missions. If we start applying different standards based on an organization's mission type, we risk eroding the foundation of charitable giving.

University foundations exist to support students, faculty, and the long-term success of our public institutions. Any law that makes it harder for them to raise funds will ultimately harm the very students and communities they serve.

At it's core, this bill threatens individual donor privacy and, ultimately, the sustainable financial health of our public universities. If Oregon wants to strengthen its higher

education system, we should be encouraging philanthropy, not discouraging it.

I urge the committee to reject this bill and its distraction from the real financial issues facing higher education.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.