



**Nonprofit Association of Oregon**  
4800 S Macadam Ave. Ste 325  
Portland, OR 97239  
[www.nonprofitoregon.org](http://www.nonprofitoregon.org)

**Testimony in Support of SB 939**  
**Phillip Kennedy-Wong**  
**Nonprofit Association of Oregon**

February 27, 2025  
Senate Judiciary Committee

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](http://www.nonprofitoregon.org).

NAO supports SB 939. Nonprofits are community-based organizations that serve a charitable purpose. Nonprofits are an important part of civil society. They are often set up to provide a way to channel collective efforts towards social good. They can be shelters for victims of domestic violence, social services for people who are homeless, care for those with mental illness, assistance for immigrant resettlement, group homes, and residential treatment for drug addiction. They can also be a faith-based organization, a community theater, museum, dance troupe, an outdoors group, a youth athletic club, and so on. They all have the right to associate to express their beliefs through their work and activities without fear of security threats or violence.

Nonprofits have experienced property damage, vandalism, graffiti, theft, security breaches and even violent threats. Here are some recent examples. One nonprofit had their vehicles vandalized and wheels taken off. Another had a door set on fire and windows smashed. And some have had staff threatened with violence because of the nature of their work with complex populations.

Regardless if those actions were motivated by hate or just random acts, nonprofits must be able to protect their staff and facilities. Unfortunately, many nonprofits cannot afford basic safety and security equipment such as lighting, fencing, or an alarm system, not to mention rising insurance rates. Some might need to acquire more extensive security equipment like a security camera system which can be as much as \$70,000 to \$80,000 to install. Often these systems come with a monthly expense to connect to a security company's call center. In some cases, some nonprofits have had to hire a static security service for employee safety and securing any expensive equipment.

There is a compelling public interest for the state to foster a safe environment where charitable activities can thrive in communities all over 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. Providing grants to purchase safety and security equipment would be a tremendous benefit to nonprofits of all stripes. For these reasons, we support the passage of SB 939.