

Submitter: Matt Bisek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB602

The Oregon TRIO Association (OTA) joins with Oregon's nonprofits to ask you to support the recommendations of the state Task Force on Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting by passing Senate Bill 602. The recommendations are designed to improve the process and outcomes of government grants and contracts by empowering nonprofits to deliver critical services efficiently and cost-effectively to Oregonians.

OTA is a community-based organization that is dedicated to leveling the educational playing field by empowering all students—and particularly those from underserved backgrounds—with the opportunity to pursue a college education. Partnering with over 55 college access programs across Oregon, OTA supports nearly 12,000 students annually, supporting custom programs to help them overcome diverse challenges such as economic hardship, insufficient familial support, or a scarcity of college-educated role models. Our comprehensive services are designed to not only facilitate college entry but to also ensure students' sustained success in higher education.

Additionally, OTA extends its influence beyond TRIO programs by connecting federal educational and career-ready programs with Oregon communities and supporting their delivery. By securing federal TRIO grants for the state's educational institutions and nonprofits. As Oregon's unique provider of TRIO grant support, OTA epitomizes a specialized commitment to educational advocacy and advancement within the state.

Our mission: The Oregon TRIO Association envisions an Oregon with increased educational equity, access, and opportunity for its traditionally marginalized student populations.

Our organization has experienced significant financial uncertainty related to federal and state grants. The timing and speed of these funds have often left our organization in a situation where we need to cover program expenses for significant periods of time, waiting to get reimbursed well after the programs have been implemented. Additionally, the need for administration expenses to be covered is escalating and changing the indirect cost percentages would greatly help organizations like OT Adeliver on our core mission and purpose.

Senate Bill 602, if enacted, improves and streamlines how government grants and contracts are structured and administered. The Bill would make important changes such as increased administrative rates and improved payment timelines.

To review all of the task force's findings and recommendations, we encourage you to read the full report.

We hope that we can count on your leadership in guiding the passage of Senate Bill 602. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Matt Bisek
Executive Director
Oregon TRIO Association