

Submitter: Marianne Schlies
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB602

Committee, Vice Chair Bohham and Chair Jama:

My name is Marianne Schlies. I have worked for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County since 2010 after reading a newspaper article where Terry McDonald talked about SVdP being the largest bookseller in Lane County and the revenue being used to finance social service self-sufficiency programs. After spending 30 years as an accountant at various for-profit corporations it was refreshing to exchange the corporate motto "Let's make a buck" to St. Vincent's motto which is "You matter." The team I work with includes front line staff who provide services to our unhoused population. I write grants, construct budgets, monitor contracts and generally try to keep funding flowing so SVdP dedicated homeless services staff can continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

I co-chaired the Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting Task Force from October 2023 to September 2024. I am sure you have all read the Executive Summary. Detailed information was provided in the Recommendations section of the complete Task Force report. Our state is in desperate need of a single statewide grant database, an update of ORS/OAR to comply with OMB guidelines, advance payment and cost of living adjustments in multi-year contracts, and living wages for the dedicated staff who provide the critical services directly to end users which the State of Oregon chooses to outsource.

With recent massive reductions to federal funds and staff, the State's ability to improve tools and communication between agencies and nonprofits is more important than ever. SVdP has had fantastic support from Lane County Health and Human Services staff, who administer both federal and state funds. The task force encourages the development of an Office of Nonprofit Partnership within DAS to support implementation of SB 602.

Please pass Senate Bill 602 which supports mutually beneficial partnerships between State of Oregon agencies and nonprofits that are key to successfully serving Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

Every day I know the work that St. Vincent de Paul does connects each of us as employees to those who reach out to us for help... that has made it more than a job, it is my life.

Thank you for your consideration.