



# OREGON WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

Apr 7, 2025

HEATHER DESART  
*OWP Chair*  
Northwest Oregon Works

Chair Lieber and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

ERIN CARPENTER  
*OWP Treasurer*  
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

On behalf of the **Oregon Workforce Partnership (OWP)** and our network of local workforce development boards, I am writing to express strong support for **Senate Bill 602**, which would modernize Oregon's unemployment insurance system by ensuring nonprofit employees are afforded the same protections as their private-sector counterparts.

BRIDGET DAZEY  
Clackamas Workforce Partnership

ASHLEY ESPINOZA  
Lane Workforce Partnership

HEATHER FICHT  
East Cascade Works

ANDREW MCGOUGH  
Work Systems Inc

Oregon's nonprofit sector plays a vital role in workforce development, offering essential services that support job seekers, businesses, and communities statewide. However, nonprofit organizations—especially those serving under-resourced populations—face ongoing workforce challenges, including high turnover, wage disparities, and difficulty attracting and retaining skilled employees. **SB 602 is a step toward creating more equitable working conditions, allowing nonprofits to better sustain their workforce and continue delivering critical services that contribute to Oregon's economic and workforce vitality.**

KIM PARKER-LLERENAS  
Willamette Workforce Partnership

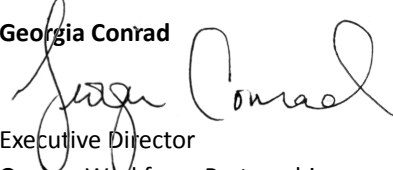
As the coordinating entity for Oregon's nine local workforce boards, **OWP understands firsthand how workforce stability directly impacts economic mobility and community well-being.** Nonprofit employees often work alongside public and private sector partners to provide training, job placement, and wraparound services—yet current unemployment insurance policies create an uneven playing field, making it harder for nonprofits to maintain a stable workforce. By passing SB 602, Oregon can ensure its policies reflect the reality that nonprofit employees deserve the same protections as workers in other sectors.

HEATHER STAFFORD  
*OWP Vice-Chair*  
Rogue Workforce Partnership

SARA STEPHENS  
Southwestern Oregon  
Workforce Investment Board

We urge you to support this important legislation and help Oregon's nonprofit workforce remain strong, resilient, and well-equipped to serve our communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out if OWP can provide additional insights on the workforce impact of this bill.

**Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a stronger Oregon workforce.**

Georgia Conrad  
  
Executive Director  
Oregon Workforce Partnership

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