

April 7th, 2025

The Honorable Senator Kayse Jama
The Honorable Representative Andrea Valerrama
Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301



RE: Senate Bill 602 - Task Force on Modernizing Nonprofit Grant Funding and Contracting Recommendations

Dear Senator Jama and Representative Valderrama,

Impact NW 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.

Impact NW's mission is to prevent homelessness by partnering with people as they navigate their journey to stability and opportunity. We are the largest nonprofit in the region dedicated to preventing homelessness, keeping over 27,000 neighbors in their homes and off the streets. 96% of the households we serve remain stably housed. The greater Portland area relies on our organization to provide critical services for families facing housing insecurity and homelessness.

Our organization has experienced challenges with the burdensome and outdated government grant and contracting system. Some of these challenges are: the cumbersome and disjointed application process, restrictive contracts and funding, reporting requirements, delayed payments, reimbursement based grants, inadequate funding that does not cover the work needed in the full contract, and inadequate wages for staff.

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 encouraging cost estimates for ongoing nonprofit grants or contracts in the budget decisions made by the executive and legislative branches and initiates steps to create a new set of ORS with OARs specifically designed for grants. This will streamline Oregon's grants management process by promoting a uniform set of guidelines for state agencies to follow and allowing for advance payments.

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,
Ada Dortch
Executive Director, Impact NW

Cc Senate Rules Committee