

**Testimony of Kyung Park, State Affairs Advisor**

**Testimony on SB 602**

**Senate Committee on Rules**

**April 9, 2025**



Metro is the regional government for the greater Portland metropolitan area, tasked by Oregon statute with making decisions every six years about how and where the region will grow. We provide a broad range of public services that include land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Metro is working with Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties and in partnership with dozens of nonprofit organizations to implement the regional Supportive Housing Services measure. Voters in our tri-county region approved this measure in 2020 to provide funding for wraparound services, outreach, shelters, and rent assistance to reduce and prevent homelessness in our community. According to data provided by Metro counties, interventions through December of 2024 include 7,247 households placed into housing, 17,048 eviction preventions, and 2,568 shelter units created in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County.

As part of the Supportive Housing Services program, Metro works with partners including nonprofit organizations to remove barriers, improve efficiency and better coordinate across jurisdictions and systems of care. Modernizing public procurement, contracting, and payment procedures will enable our nonprofit providers to hire, pay, and retain the workforce that is doing the crucial and arduous front-line work to support our most vulnerable neighbors.

With our partners, Metro is exploring regional changes to contract policies and procedures that are in alignment with the recommended from the Task Force on Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting. With the creation of the Nonprofit Organization Advisory Council, the State can lead the way and support our efforts at the regional level.

Metro desires vibrant communities and where people live, work, and play. Public agencies rely on the expertise and dedication of our non-profit partners to deliver the outcomes needed in our communities. Supporting nonprofit organization's fiscal health and reducing administrative burden will redirect resources to addressing our community's challenges.

Metro urges your support for SB 602.