



WASHINGTON NONPROFITS

We make sure nonprofits have what they need to succeed.

February 6, 2018

TO:

The Honorable Kristine Lytton
368 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Zack Hudgins
438A Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Sharon Wylie
310 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

CC:

The Honorable Timm Ormsby
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
315 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Bruce Chandler
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
427 B Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: HB 2986- Concerning Fees Collected by the Secretary of State

Dear Representative Lytton, Representative Hudgins, and Representative Wylie,

On behalf of Washington Nonprofits' broad and diverse membership of community-serving nonprofit organizations, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 2986 as currently written. We believe it represents an unnecessary added cost for nonprofits in Washington State, and we would welcome a conversation to better understand the reasons for the legislation and share our thoughts.

In brief, this legislation would more than double the annual filing fee paid by nonprofit organizations. This would result in approximately \$660,000 being diverted from human services, arts, environmental conservation, education, and other critical community services across the state. We are not aware of any problems with the current system administered by the Office of the Secretary of State and see no need to assess a processing fee that yields no discernable benefit for nonprofit organizations and the public. We hope that HB 2986 will be amended to exclude nonprofit organizations from the additional fee.

Washington Nonprofits hopes to serve as a constructive resource in the design and implementation of state laws and regulations that impact nonprofit organizations. Please feel free to contact me or Washington Nonprofits' Director of Public Policy and Advocacy David Streeter to speak further about the proposed legislation and its impact.

Sincerely,



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