

March 17, 2025

Chair Pinto, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ariana Chamoun, and I am the Interim Executive Director at Foster Advocates. I am writing in strong support of the EquaSpace bill and would like to share my perspective on its importance for the nonprofit sector.

It is essential to recognize that nonprofits function much like businesses. They employ staff, provide critical services, and rely on funding to operate, all while being held to a different tax status. Nonprofits, just like any other sector, must ensure they are operating efficiently, transparently, and ethically, particularly when handling taxpayer or donor dollars. HF 1638 will help nonprofits maintain a high standard of compliance, accountability, and transparency, ensuring that public resources are being used appropriately and effectively.

EquaSpace is not about training nonprofits to simply seek government funding; instead, it is about equipping them with the tools and knowledge they need to operate sustainably and effectively. By providing infrastructure and operational support, EquaSpace will help organizations establish strong systems that reassure accountability and reduce the risk of fraud and waste. This proactive approach will strengthen nonprofits, enabling them to contribute to their communities and missions with even greater impact.

On a personal note, I can speak to the tremendous value that EquaSpace provides. Our organization has already benefitted from their educational and professional development opportunities. Through programs such as office hours with experts in finance, strategy, and leadership, as well as specialized initiatives like "Moving Your Organization up the AI Maturity Curve," nonprofits are empowered to better utilize technology and improve their operational practices. These opportunities have strengthened our organization's capacity and allowed us to deliver on our mission more effectively. We are grateful to be in the EquaSpace community.

Investing in EquaSpace is an investment in the long-term success and sustainability of nonprofits across the state. It is a proactive step to ensure that the nonprofit sector continues to thrive and contribute positively to both the economic and social well-being of our communities. I strongly support this bill and urge the Committee to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ariana Chamoun
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