



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director
In Support of HB 4077 – Good Government Ethics & Transparency
House Committee on Rules
02/08/2018**

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports HB 4077, which will require Oregon legislators to report sources of income received by businesses they own when the income comes from an entity with a government contract or a financial interest in legislative matters, and the income is 10% or more of the legislator’s business’ revenue. We support this important change in Oregon law **because it furthers the principles of transparency and accountability which are critical to the functioning of a health democracy.**

The public has a right to know crucial information about actual or potential financial conflicts of the elected leaders who serve them. Without such disclosure, the **lack of transparency around ethical and financial conflicts undermines the public’s confidence in fair government.**

Transparency and accountability are two sides of the same coin. At the ACLU of Oregon, we understand that we cannot have one without the other. **When the public is well-informed about all aspects of the functioning of our government, they are better able to fulfill their role in our democracy’s system of checks-and-balances.**

Current law in Oregon unfortunately allows a loophole in transparency around actual and potential financial conflicts of legislators. More than half of Oregon legislators are business owners. Even if those businesses receive significant revenue from entities with a government contract or a financial interest in matters being debated by the legislature, there is no current requirement to disclose those important relationships. HB 4077 will close this loophole.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you to Support HB 4077. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with more than 42,000 members in the State of Oregon.