

I support HB 2560, a bill requiring that current, reasonable remote access to public meetings continue after the pandemic.

As an educator forced to pivot quickly last March to entirely remote undergraduate courses and public K-12 outreach, I've noted extensive benefits for many students - particularly with regards to access and inclusion. Making the trek to campus is difficult for many with demanding jobs, family commitments, inadequate income and/or certain disabilities. Online participation, when wifi exists, expands participation, and also offers more video and audio control over how people choose to present in public. This has definitely encouraged greater engagement in both courses and outreach.

I think that HB 2560, especially if combined with more equitable public investment in internet access, will also allow more Oregonians from across the state to make their voices heard on issues that matter to them. I ask that you please support this bill, preserve remote access to public meetings and encourage participation in our democracy.