



March 3, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, we express our support for House Bill 2323.

Would that this bill were unnecessary, but such is not the case. Misstatements about the mechanics of our election process are becoming increasingly and disturbingly common. This practice effectively denies Oregonians their right to participate in the democratic process.

A number of reports have documented these abuses - *Deceptive Election Practices and Voter Intimidation: The Need for Voter Protection*, prepared by Common Cause and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law,¹ and *Deceptive Practices 2.0: Legal and Policy Responses*, prepared by Common Cause, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, and the Century Foundation.²

The impact of false and misleading information falls most harshly on those who don't have the time or the resources to verify it.

At the present time voters have no recourse when they are the victims of false and misleading statements about election dates, locations, voting qualifications and so on. House Bill 2323 takes a well-informed and practical approach to the problem by authorizing the Attorney General to pursue those attempting to mislead electors. The Attorney General will be able to verify complaints and use its discretion in initiating litigation. It is hoped that this remedy will deter further misconduct.

We urge your support of House Bill 2323.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish Garner, J.D., M.S.W.
State Public Policy Chair,
American Association of University Women of Oregon
garner37@mac.com

¹ <https://lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/DeceptivePracticesReportJuly2012FINAL.pdf.pdf>

² <https://www.commoncause.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/0064.pdf>