

March 8, 2021

To the House Rules Committee:

*Most corporate boards are populated by white men. As late as 2018, 61% of Fortune 100 boards were composed of white men, as opposed to 19% white women, 6% minority women, and 14% minority men. Oregon's largest publicly traded companies show an average of only 21% of board seats were held by women in 2019.*

*Most corporations claim they honor diversity, but statistics paint another picture. The argument that there aren't enough "qualified" women and people of color to serve on corporate boards is not only factually inaccurate, but offensive. A critical mass of diverse corporate board members creates an environment where people are no longer viewed as outsiders and ensures their viewpoints are valued. No more "check the box" mentality for choosing our business leaders. Maintaining glass ceilings at the top — which are really made of concrete — reinforces a system that seeks to "put people in their place" throughout our entire socio-economic structure.*

Sincerely,

Jo Rossman

Member AAUW

[jo.a.rossman@gmail.com](mailto:jo.a.rossman@gmail.com)