



119 SE 52nd Ave
Portland OR 97215

March 29, 2021

Ref: HB2680-1

Dear Members of the OR House Rules Committee:

HB2680-1 suffers from a number of defeats.

First , the limits are all far too high.

Second, the limits are per Person. Instead the limits should be per individual. Why? Because an individual is clearly, and legally under Oregon law, a human person, not a corporate person. Using the generic Person, as HB2680-1 does, therefore includes corporations, unions, associations and more, which we do not want.

Third, local governments can void the contributions limits, thereby opening the flood gates of special interest money flowing not only into the local races but also into Caucus committees, Party committees or candidates by being re-contributed.

Fourth, the enforcement mechanism is not up to the job. Only the Secretary of State and sometimes the Attorney General can enforce the provisions of the bill. There must be a way for citizen to enforce the limits themselves by bringing enforcement actions. Any thing less invites the appearance of selective enforcement and the possibility of corruption.

There are other defects in HB2680-1 but others will or have addressed them.

We do like that HB2680-1 has included public funding of candidate elections in certain races. This is a good addition to the bill; however, not enough to overrule the defects.

We recommend that HB2680-1 be amended with at least the changes outlined above. At this time, the Alliance for Democracy is opposed to enactment of HB2680-1 We will look again if amendments are made and make a further recommendation at that time.

Regards,

David Delk
for Alliance for Democracy, Portland OR 97215