



3/30/2021

House Committee on Rules

Testimony House Bill 2680 (Re: -1, -2)

Chair and House Democrat Leader, Barbara Smith Warner, Vice-Chair and House Republic Leader Christine Drazen; Vice-Chair Paul Holvey, and Members of the Committee;

PCUN is Oregon's Farmworker Union, we've registered 7,000 Members - with a mission of empowering farmworker communities through organizing, systems change, and advocacy. Part of that work does in fact entail getting involved in the electoral process. Our goal is to continue to bring bilingual voting information, and recommendations to farmworker communities, many of whom are Latinx, new citizens, first time voters who need a culturally competent approach.

In order to ensure we continue to build that trust - PCUN endorses candidates, with the central question of whether they support some of the most pertinent farmworker issues of our time. As you know - the average life expectancy of a farmworker is about 49 years of age. This is why it's so important that we educate leaders about these statistics, and build relationships through PCUN's engagement in campaigns. Most of our campaign engagement occurs through our 501c4 organization, Accion Politica PCUNista. We support the -1 amendments for the following reasons:

- 501 c4 Definition
 - We value policy that removes barriers to participation and promotes volunteerism with organizations to build stronger communities. We in-kind staff for campaigns - especially those with BIPOC candidates from marginalized communities. We would like to continue to do in-kind support because we feel it's been a valuable contribution to Oregon's diversification of candidates. CFR is a healthy next step for democracy, we cannot unintentionally cut out Oregonians who have been the least represented in government.
- Worker Justice
 - Candidates need to be able to raise enough resources to fairly compensate campaign staff. If limits are too low, we will force campaigns to pay low and inequitable wages. Campaign staffers are a vital pipeline for our state. Campaign finance limits should allow for competitive wages to attract talent.

PCUN does not support the -2 amendments. We're concerned about some of the sections specifically that leave out key community members, and don't take into consideration the difference between a for profit corporation and a nonprofit organization. Areas of concern include:

- Our workforce is of mixed immigration status, which means some members on our boards, and committees. We believe that some of the language would prohibit our participation in the

electoral process, and do not feel that is fair to Oregon residents that feel the effects of decisions being made that affect their lives every day.

- As nonprofits, our budgets are not based on gross receipts - we use budgets, and expenses based on accrual budgets - our budgets allocate designated funds to different programs. One of six programs at PCUN is electoral work - which we do not do all year round only for short seasons during election years.
- There is no mention of small donor PAC's, and these amendments seem to heavily center corporations, and wealthier donors.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to give feedback on the process.

Reyna Lopez, Executive Director

PCUN Oregon's Farmworker Union