

03 April 2021

To: House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 2499

Dear Chair Representative Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Representatives Drazan and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

HB 2499 "Extends automatic voter registration to Oregon Health Authority and any state agency designated by Governor." Now, Health Authority, eh? And just why is the governor in need of so much more authority this legislation provides?

What's the big need for yet more coddling to voters who apparently are in no mind to make any effort to vote? There is frequently talk about "informed voters" but how about some talking about "ready, willing and able" voters?

This "issue," such as it is, is approaching the realm of the ridiculous. A while back, Oregon citizens could not, or would not, register to vote. So the DMV now does it for them. Not long after that Oregon voters either could not, or would not, put a stamp on a ballot envelope. So now tax payers pay that postage for them.

I believe there is current legislation affecting the absolute "latest date" that a voter's ballot can be accepted. Good grief, it must be that months to prepare or plan isn't quite enough.

If HB 2499 is such a great idea, and who knows what state agencies will soon join the list of registrars if this passes, why not just register everyone to vote when they're issued a birth certificate? Or, how about when they get an Oregon address? Or just about any old reason?

Better yet, why bother with registering voters at all? That way, everyone would be registered.

If a citizen want's to participate in our form of government, it behooves them to take the necessary steps to make that happen. The onus is on the citizenry, not the legislature. Are we heading towards a society where no effort at all is required in order to cast a ballot?

I am opposed to HB 2499. The state cannot continue to abrogate, little by little, all responsibilities from the citizenry and expect that citizenry to be responsible for themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner