



Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Committee, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Neal Ubriani, and I am the Policy and Research Director for the Center for Secure and Modern Elections (CSME) in support of House Bill 2499. CSME is a national nonpartisan campaign to support states in making technology upgrades to ensure that elections are secure, accessible, and efficient.

In 2016, Oregon pioneered Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) at DMV offices, automatically forwarding eligible citizen information from the DMV to elections officials for voter registration purposes and setting a new benchmark for the country. Oregon demonstrated that the DMV could maximize the registration of eligible voters while saving time and money.

With the passage of AVR, Oregon has established itself as a leader in civic participation and currently runs one of the most secure and accessible voter registration systems in the country. However, there is always an opportunity to fill gaps in the current system. Roughly 10% of Oregonians do not have a drivers' license, and younger and low-income populations are less likely than other groups to have a license. These individuals are not reached by the current AVR system at the DMV nor can they use the current Online Voter Registration (OVR) system, since the OVR website is only open to people with an ID card issued by the Oregon DMV. Likewise, individuals renew their driver's licenses only once every eight years. Other agencies have more frequent data that can be used to ensure that voter rolls are kept up to date, so mail ballots reach voters at the correct address.

HB 2499 would expand the AVR system to Medicaid agencies, registering eligible citizens who enroll in Medicaid, while updating the address of any existing registered voter based on yearly re-enrollment data. Similarly, the bill would use information from the Department of Revenue, ensuring that address data used from annual income tax filings is available to election officials for updating voter registration records. To fill any remaining gaps, the bill also allows the governor's office to identify additional agencies for AVR implementation.

This bill also expands Oregon's OVR system, which is currently only open to individuals with an Oregon driver's license or DMV-issued ID card. Under this bill, people without a DMV-issued ID would be able to register to vote online using the last four digits of their social security number. This is the same process available for mail registration forms, and this bill would replace thousands of paper registration forms with online transactions, saving clerks time and money and expanding the availability of OVR to all eligible Oregonians.

There are hundreds of thousands of unregistered and inactive voters in Oregon. With this expansion, Oregon can help these voters register or update their registrations with streamlined electronic registration systems, reducing the costs of list maintenance and processing last-minute paper forms. HB 2499 will ultimately increase the accessibility, security, and accuracy of Oregon's voter registration records, and save the state resources during upcoming election cycles. I urge you to support this bill, and am happy to answer any questions you might have.