

**To: House Rules Committee**  
**From: Cristina Nieves, Common Cause Oregon**  
**Re: Extending Automatic Voter Registration to Oregon Health Authority**  
**Date: April 6, 2021**

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are over one million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

As such, Common Cause supports [HB 2499](#) to extend automatic voter registration to the Oregon Health Authority.

### **Modernization & Efficiency**

In this increasingly busy and mobile world, it can be burdensome to keep up with all the minor bureaucratic matters of our lives. As technology advances, we've become accustomed to greater efficiency and convenience. There's no reason to make the steps to voting any more cumbersome than they need to be, especially in a country that prides itself on innovation and working smarter. As technology advances, we should advance with it. The proposed extension of automatic voter registration is not just more efficient for voters, but also for government. By integrating systems and information between government agencies, we save time and minimize human error, helping to keep government as efficient as possible.

### **Respecting the Right to Vote**

Utilizing OHA for voter registration is not just more efficient, but it is also more equitable for all. Common Cause supports the ability for all individuals to participate in our democratic process. Generally, this leads to better decisions and greater public confidence in those decisions. Not everyone interacts with the DMV on a consistent basis, and this should not create a disadvantage in being able to register to vote. The Oregon Health Authority, however, interacts with individuals yearly and will likely have more updated information on voters.

### **Building on What Works**

Since Oregon implemented motor voter, we increased voter participation. Extending automatic voter registration to the Oregon Health Authority is a natural next step in reforming how people are able to have their voices heard in the election process.

**Thank you again for considering this testimony.**