



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Oregon

May 13, 2021

Senate Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Opposition to the -A5 Amendment to HB 3047A

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 members statewide. We are here today in opposition to the -A5 Amendment to HB 3047A.

Open government is a cornerstone of democracy. Transparency is critical to accountability. It enables the public and the press to play a watchful role in curbing wasteful government spending and guarding against corruption and misconduct. It is foundational to our system of governance - of governance by "we the people." Transparency also is a prerequisite for trust, which has often been in short supply in Oregon and across the country. This is the core value of our public records and open meetings laws.

We have serious concerns about the potential negative impacts that the -A5 Amendment would have on Oregonian's access to public records.

The -A5 Amendment expands the exemption in public records law for employee addresses, phone numbers, emails, date of birth, and social security numbers from information contained in personnel records to *all* records.

This change has the potential to greatly increase both the cost and time for all public records requests.

Given the significant change of this amendment and potential negative ripple effects, we urge the Committee to examine this proposal during the interim legislative session with a robust stakeholder process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Chung", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sandy Chung
Executive Director, ACLU of Oregon