



May 13, 2021

Danita Harris

Oregon Working Families Party

Testimony in support of HB 2680 and -1 amendments:

Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, members of the committee:

My name is Danita Harris, I am the Interim State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party. Founded in 2006 and representing thousands of Oregonians, the Oregon Working Families Party fights for an economy that works for all of us. I am submitting testimony today in support of HB 2680 and the -1 amendments.

OWFP knows that participation in elections is critical in order to render the kinds of equitable changes we need for working families. Additionally, we need legislators who are a part of the communities they represent and are truly accountable to their constituents. Today, we see more diversity of candidates than we ever have and with that diversity comes the lived experience of the communities they represent.

Campaign finance reform is critical in uplifting communities across Oregon and allowing access to the legislative process with true representational power. Something that for too long has been limited to corporations and well-resourced super PACs who have the most money and fewest people's interest at heart, with the smallest amount of accountability to Oregonians.

HB 2680 and the -1 amendments uplifts the immense value that small donor PACs bring to the electoral process through in-kind contributions. Small donor PACs are made up of Oregonians who do not have the same ability as large corporate donors or super PACs to drop large sums of money; but, are made up of community members that work together to usher forward community supported representation. Additionally, we expect that paid staff make a reasonable and fair wage for the tireless work that goes into supporting campaigns.

This is why the Oregon Working Families Party and community based organizations across Oregon are in support of this bill and the -1 amendments. In-kind donations are critical to the continued growth of diversity and honest representation for Oregonians. We would, however, like to see the limitation of 'existing staff' be removed from in-kind contributions, as many community based organizations bring on additional team members to help with voter outreach.

OWFP does not support the -2 amendments which favor corporations and wealthy donors.

Thank you,