

Isabela Villarreal
333 SE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
RE: Support HB 2680 -1



May 13, 2021

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

For the record my name is Isabela Villarreal, I use she/her pronouns, and I am the Policy and Communications Manager at Next Up Action Fund. As a c(4) organization that works to build political power with young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon we support policies that will break down systemic barriers to participation, build a representative and equitable electorate, and amplify the voices of young people. As such, we support the efforts towards campaign finance reform through HB 2680 with the -1 amendments.

Every single election cycle we fight for the candidates and policies in order to increase representation for diverse young people who are significantly underrepresented and marginalized in the political process. We contact and engage thousands of young people across Oregon ages 18-29 through voter outreach and education so that we can mobilize our communities to shift power and broaden the leadership pipeline, opening the doors for more people of color, women, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ+, and low-income youth to become public service leaders.

We believe that HB 2680 with the -1 amendments is heading in the right direction - where it limits big money in politics, while allowing for continued grassroots engagement from community 501c(4) organizations. Specifically, we'd like to highlight three important pieces of the -1 amendment that we support:

- The measure that allows for **staff in kind support** is an important way that organizations can engage in elections. This is an important aspect of how 501c(4) organizations can help support emerging and marginalized candidates in their run for office, and is a key piece of this bill that will help continue to bring in more diverse candidates and people into our elections.
- We support the **definition of membership** as it allows for engagement from our communities and promotes volunteerism. At times members of the public would rather work for and trust an organization over a politician. The organizational membership included in the -1 allows for members of the public to do both.
- We are also very excited to see a **small donor match 6-1**. Small donor public financing is the most powerful, proven solution available to counter the overwhelming influence of wealth on our political process in the aftermath of the Citizens United decision, which gave the green light to unlimited special interest spending. Small donor public financing is an effective way to amplify the voices of regular people in elections and incentivize candidates to seek out broad support.

I'll note that Next Up Action Fund strongly opposes the -2, as it misses the mark in making Oregon's election system more equitable. and will continue to silence and do harm to Black, Indigenous and other communities of color who have been historically left out of our democracy by stifling the work that small emerging and BIPOC led community organizations are engaged in.

Please support HB 2680 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

Isabela Villarreal
Policy and Communications Manager