



February 11, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully express our support for House Joint Resolution 11.

As of 2020, a total of 21 states plus the District of Columbia have enacted same day registration legislation.<sup>1</sup> Oregon should be one of those states.

There is strong evidence that same day registration increases voter turnout, and voter turnout is what the democratic process is all about. It is estimated that in the 2018 midterm the advantage of states with same day registration had a turnout advantage over states without it in the amount of 7 percentage points.<sup>2</sup>

U.S. history demonstrates that restrictions on the opportunities to register and vote have had a particularly negative impact on people of color and disadvantaged populations. In fact, this history shows that efforts to limit voting in the U.S. have been specifically designed to restrict or quell voting on the part of these communities.

We should do everything we can to rebalance these scales.

Depriving citizens the opportunity to vote deprives them of a voice in constructing socio-economic and political policies. We need to hear these voices as they are essential to enacting policies that actually work for all the citizens of Oregon.

We urge your positive vote on HJR 11.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> *Same Day Voter Registration*, National Conference of State Legislatures, 6 October 2020, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-registration.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Same-day Voter Registration: A Simple Solution to Protect Voter Rights, The Hill, <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/442224-same-day-registration-a-simple-solution-to-protect-voter-rights>