
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

February 8, 2022

Chair Smith Warner, Co Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon has made access to democracy a top priority. Reproductive freedom and health care are often attacked at the ballot box and unfairly politicized, so we advocate for policies that ensure everyone can engage in our democratic process to defend their bodily autonomy and access to health care. We are writing in strong support of Online Voter Registration Plus (OVR+) in Oregon, HB 4133, an act to create a modernized Online Voter Registration System because expanding online voter registration to Oregonians without a drivers license increases access to historically marginalized communities.

Oregon's OVR system is currently limited to people who have either an Oregon driver's license or a non-driver ID card issued by the Oregon DMV. HB 4133 will help modernize our online voter registration system (OVR+) that will allow for registrants to upload an image of their signature and register online with the last four digits of their social security number. With an OVR+ system, more Oregonians will be able to conveniently register to vote and update their registrations. Clerks will have less manual data entry and can save money by reducing both labor costs for transcription and paper voter registration forms.

It will improve access to Oregon's existing online voter registration system by accommodating eligible Oregonians who do not have a driver's license. OVR+ expands access to online voter registration to eligible Oregonians who do not possess a driver's license, a category that is typically overrepresented by marginalized communities.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon has made access to democracy a top priority. To facilitate full and robust voter engagement in our elections, we need to decrease barriers and expand access to safe and secure voting. From automatic voter registration to paid postage for ballots, Oregon has long been a vanguard and national leader in improving access to the ballot. With OVR+ already passed or being implemented in nine other states, we believe it is time for Oregon to adopt this policy.

As an organization that does voter registration and get-out-the-vote work, we know how even the smallest of barriers can prevent marginalized voters from engaging in the voting process. HB 4133 is a simple, cost-effective change that will strengthen our democracy by removing barriers to voting access and ensure that Oregon can achieve an inclusive, fair and effective elections system.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon respectfully urges the committee's support of HB 4133.

Sincerely,

Cassie Purdy
Political Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon