

**To: House Rules Committee**  
**From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon**  
**Re: HB 4144, Election Worker Safety**  
**Date: Feb 15, 2022**

**Common Cause**

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are over 1.5 million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

**Qualified Support for HB 4144**

As Oregonians, we all share a debt of gratitude to the professional and volunteer election workers who make our elections work. It is deeply concerning that these workers, and the democratic elections they administer, are now under heightened attack. Common Cause strongly supports the protection of election worker safety. We are largely in favor of this bill – both in spirit and specifics – including the provisions to protect confidentiality of an election worker’s home address, and to increase fines for harassment against election workers. Nevertheless, we express reservations about changing a misdemeanor level of harassment to a felony.

**Support for the Secretary’s Democracy Agenda**

Additionally, Common Cause supports the rest of the Secretary of State’s Democracy Agenda. Most critically, we urge legislators to approve the reasonable request for federal funds to sustain important ongoing systems upgrades, and the request for state funds for a modest staffing increase at a time when our election administration faces unprecedented challenges.