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**Re: Support Online Voter Registration Modernization, HB 4133**

February 22, 2022

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Isabela and I'm the Policy and Communications Manager with Next Up Action Fund. We work to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We've long worked to break down systemic barriers to civic participation in Oregon, and modernizing our online voter registration system is an important part of that goal. I'm here today in strong support of HB 4133 which will modernize our Online Voter Registration (OVR+) in Oregon.

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. People without a DMV-issued ID must still print, fill-out, sign, and mail a registration form. We know this is a major barrier to completing voter registration and results in Oregonians not registering, updating their registration, or casting their vote.

HB 4133 will help modernize our online voter registration system by allowing for eligible registrants to upload an image of their signature and register online with the last four digits of their social security number, which simply replicates the options already available on paper forms. **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.**

**This policy is a win-win-win for Oregon.** OVR+ will save the state money, by further reducing the need for costly paper registration forms, which cost an average of \$4.71 per registration. Additionally, it will improve the accuracy and security of Oregon's voter file by reducing the potential for human error that is present with paper forms. At several points throughout the paper-registration process, data must be manually entered into the state system. As we've noted, this increases labor costs, but it also opens the door to data-entry errors. With an automated system, this risk is all but eliminated. Lastly, 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+ has already been implemented or passed in nine other states plus the District of Columbia. Maine, Colorado, Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Vermont, and Missouri have all implemented (or are in the process of doing so, in the cases of Maine and Colorado) OVR+. Oregon has always been on the cutting edge of election modernizations. If Kentucky and Missouri have figured this out, Oregon should have too.

We want to reiterate that HB 4133 does not change the substantive requirements for voter registration. **Under HB 4133, people would register to vote by providing exactly the**

**same information they currently provide on a paper form**, and uploading a photograph of their signature.

Oregon has a long history of modernizing elections in order to better serve all voters, OVR+ is another opportunity to continue this path. Expanded online voter registration can lead to cost-savings administrative benefits while directly serving all Oregonian Voters. We urge the committee to support HB 4133.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have,

Isabela Villarreal  
*Policy and Communications Manager*