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Chair Wagner, Vice- Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee:

I am Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director for Secretary Shemia Fagan, who is serving as Oregon's 28th Secretary of State. Our Elections Division is responsible for ensuring safe, fair, efficient, and accessible elections at all levels of the process. As Oregon's chief elections officer, it is one of the Secretaries' top priorities to expand access to the ballot and promote civic engagement through the voting process. HB 4133-A would help further both goals. We have provided information for your consideration of HB 4133-A below. We are supportive of the bill and urge the committee to do the same.

BACKGROUND

Who can register to vote?

A person must be at least 16 years old, a resident of Oregon, and a U.S. citizen to register to vote. Even though 16-year-olds may register to vote they will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday.

There are three ways to register to vote in Oregon: Oregon Motor Voter or automatic voter registration at the DMV, online voter registration (at oregonvotes.gov/register), and paper registration which can be mailed or delivered to an elections office.

The Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) registration law took effect on January 1, 2016, making Oregon the first state in the nation to implement automatic voter registration. Automatic registration is available to those who apply for an original, renewal or replacement driver's license, permit or identification card (ID) and provide evidence of citizenship at a Driver and Motor Vehicle Division (DMV) office.

A voter can also register to vote online at oregonvotes.gov/register if they already have a driver's license or ID issued by the Oregon DMV. If an individual does not have an Oregon DMV issued driver's license or ID, they must register using a paper voter registration form. The form may be mailed or hand-delivered to a county election office, the Secretary of State's office, or any other agency required by law to accept voter registration cards. Paper voter registration forms are in many public buildings, in every county election office and in many state agency buildings including the office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division.

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What is the verification process for citizenship?

When people submit a voter registration form listing the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN) local elections officials verify that number against a federal database. This occurs each time a local office receives a voter registration form containing the last four digits of an SSN. This is similar to how clerks verify DMV numbers when a paper voter registration form is received containing an Oregon driver's license or ID number. Elections officials verify those numbers against a state database to ensure the DMV number listed is valid.

State and local officials continuously make sure voter rolls are as accurate as possible. The Elections Division works with the DMV to update voter registration records for individuals who obtained a DMV number after they registered using the last four digits of their SSN. For example, if an individual moved to Oregon and registered using the last four digits of their SSN but subsequently obtained an Oregon driver's license and provided proof of citizenship at the DMV, data transfers between the Elections Division and the DMV would prompt that individual's voter record to be updated to include the DMV number.

Oregon is also a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). This service allows the Elections Division to compare voter rolls with other member states and remove people from the rolls who moved and forgot to cancel their Oregon voter registration. The services also provide deceased records shared with local officials regularly. Additionally, the Oregon Health Authority provides vital records on a regular basis to compliment the data. The Oregon Elections Division is also a member of NCOA (the National Change of Address Association), a program that sends data when a voter moves either within or out of state, which is shared regularly with counties.

Further, when local officials believe that someone who isn't qualified to vote has registered to do so, there is a process by which the clerk may challenge that registration. *See* ORS 247.174 and ORS 247.195. If a person registered to vote when they weren't qualified to do so, not only would their registration be cancelled, but they face fines of up to \$125,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment.

HOUSE BILL 4133-A

Oregon became a leader in voter registration after the passage of the Motor Voter Law ([HB 2177](#)) in 2015. By automatically registering eligible Oregonians to vote when Oregonians interact with the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV). As we all know, the first-time people interact with the DMV is most often when they are 16 getting their license. By streamlining voter registration into an existing governmental process common in people's lives, we removed a massive barrier and added hundreds of thousands of voters since implementation in 2016 (see Section 10). Research from the [Brennan Center](#) and [American Center for Progress](#) show the positive effect automatic voter registration has on turnout across all ideological and demographic spectrums. This is not a policy to move us right or the left, this is a policy to move us forward.

HB 4133-A makes improvements to Oregon's Online Voter Registration (OVR) system. Currently, Oregonians who do not have a driver's license or state issued identification (ID) must register to vote with a paper form due to lack of signature on file with the DMV. The bill allows for registrants to upload an image of their signature with the last four digits of their social security number. The bill also

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gives the SoS the option to allow a third-party organization to submit registrations cards electronically that ensures national registrations tools like vote.gov integrate seamlessly with Oregon's existing OVR system.

From an equity perspective, we know people without a driver's license or state issued ID must still print, sign, and mail registration form. This is a barrier to completing voter registration and results in Oregonians not registering, updating their registration, or casting their vote. This change significantly broadens OVR access for individuals without licenses. At the end of this written testimony, we have compiled background information for your consideration of HB 4133-A.

The Secretary's executive staff and the Election Division requested a later implementation date of January 1, 2026 to conduct implementation of these expanded services after rolling out, training, and completing the transfer to the completely new elections management system, Oregon Votes, statewide. The project will replace the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration system and is slated to be completed by the end of 2023. Please note the-1 FIS details staffing needs for the 2023-2025 biennium, which will be required for successful implementation. However, if the current implementation date is adopted, our agency will not incur costs or draw resources away from critical work during the current biennium.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue this collaboration through implementation of this policy to ensure the most effective and efficient systems are established. We appreciate Rep. Fahey and Senator Lawrence-Spence for their leadership. Our democracy is stronger when more people participate in elections and make their voices heard. HB 4133-A will build off the good work of the Motor Voter law and continue to decrease barriers for Oregonians to be civically engaged and to exercise their right to vote.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your support of HB 4133-A.

Sincerely,
Jessica Ventura

Legislative Director for SoS Shemia Fagan

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