

RE: Support Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**January 25, 2023**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is **Christopher Adams** and I live in **Corvallis**. I am writing to testify in strong support for Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, which will ensure every eligible Oregonian can register to vote, update their voter registration, and vote in elections based on where they resided prior to incarceration.

The right to vote is enshrined in our constitution and fundamental to a vibrant and participatory democracy. Yet, around 12,000 people in Oregon are currently denied their right to vote, leading to the disproportionate disenfranchisement of low-income, Black, Indigenous, and Latine people. Guaranteeing the Right to Vote fulfills the promise of our democracy while improving public safety, and addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities.

A person's status as incarcerated or not should not affect their access to the fundamental right of a voice in their representative government. The arguments against providing people that are incarcerated with the right to vote are rooted in misguided and often prejudicial notions. Let's make sure Oregon is on the right side of history by ensuring that ALL Oregonians have the right to vote.

I am not alone in my support for this important bill. This legislation is supported by over 40 civil rights organizations, faith-based groups, as well as dozens of currently and formerly incarcerated people. Please ensure that Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, is passed out of committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Christopher Adams**