

RE: Support Automatic Voter Registration Expansion, HB 2107

House Committee on Rules

February 13, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee,

My name is Caroline Phillips and I am with Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing more voices into our elections and greater diversity to our government. Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates supports Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) Expansion in Oregon, HB 2107, an act to expand AVR to Medicaid because we need to do more to make voting accessible to all Oregonians.

Oregon has been a longtime leader for voter accessibility with vote-by-mail and DMV-based AVR. However, despite DMV-based AVR's success, a significant number of eligible voters in the state are unregistered to vote or are registered under an old address or name. Young people, disabled people, naturalized U.S citizens, and low-income communities are not being reached completely through AVR or OVR systems. These communities are historically underrepresented in our democracy.

As an organization centered on bringing more voice to our elections and helping to ensure all Oregonians have a voice in our elections, we urge you to expand our AVR systems to Medicaid. This is the most efficient and secure way to register eligible voters, specifically those who come from historically excluded populations. With Medicaid's existing infrastructure for citizenship verification and its direct inclusion in the NVRA mandate, it makes an ideal agency for AVR.

In order for Oregon elections to be truly representative of all Oregon communities, we need to include AVR beyond the DMV. HB 2107 is Oregon's next step in voter accessibility, helping ensure eligible voters are able to participate in our elections.

As a representative of Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates, please support the passage of HB 2107.

Thank you,

Caroline Phillips, she/her
Communications Coordinator
Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates

