



February 14, 2023

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Oregon Education Association

RE: Support Automatic Voter Registration Expansion, HB 2107

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

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to community colleges. Our members are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college professionals and more.

On behalf of our members across the state, OEA supports Automatic Voter Registration Expansion in Oregon, HB 2107, an act to expand AVR to Medicaid because expanded voter access is always in service of a better future for Oregon.

Despite Oregon's success with DMV-based AVR, a significant number of eligible voters in the state are unregistered to vote or are registered under an old address or name. Expanding AVR to Medicaid offices will close registration gaps, improve the security and accuracy of the voter file, and continue to protect non-citizens.

We know that as students continue on in their academic journeys it is increasingly more important to learn and understand the impact of voting. Voting has a significant impact on public education, so it is imperative for all of us to ensure that as our students become the informed decision-makers of the future, that we ensure the path to becoming a voter with updated information is as accessible as possible.

Medicaid is a great avenue to ensure access while reducing cost:

- Expanding AVR systems to Medicaid is the most efficient and secure way to register eligible voters, specifically those who come from historically underrepresented populations.
- Medicaid is an ideal agency for automatic voter registration due to its existing citizenship verification process, practical data sharing experience, and direct inclusion in the NVRA mandate.
- Expanding AVR systems to Medicaid does not change eligibility for requirements. It simply modernizes and streamlines the voter registration process for already eligible voters.



- AVR at Medicaid would also improve the quality of our voter rolls. Any registered voter who updates their address information as part of a Medicaid application or upon release from incarceration would have that information shared with election officials to help keep the voter rolls current and accurate.
- AVR significantly increases the accuracy and completeness of voter registration rolls while decreasing workloads and lowering costs for agencies. Voters face less confusion and get an opportunity to opt out of the voter registration service. These benefits have already been seen at Oregon's DMVs, expanding AVR to Medicaid offices maximizes benefits and voter registration for Oregon.

Oregon Education Association urges your support for HB 2107.

Thank you,

Michele Ruffin

Government Relations Consultant

Oregon Education Association