

Submitter: Alice Lundell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Members of the committee,

My name is Alice Lundell and I live in Portland. I am here today to testify in strong support for funding Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, Senate Bill 579.

I believe Oregonians can be proud of how our state has protected the right of citizens to participate in our democracy through voting. This cherished right often seems to be under attack elsewhere, but in our state we can take comfort in our efforts to ensure voting rights are upheld.

Voting is both a right and a responsibility we share to shape the future of our communities. Everyone has a voice and something to contribute to the conversation. There are few people in Oregon whose lives are more closely impacted by the decisions of elected officials and the laws that are passed than incarcerated people. I believe we are currently missing something important because we do not hear from Oregonians in prison as voters. We should guarantee their right to vote as an important step toward greater responsiveness to the impact of our criminal legal system and our prisons on these individuals and in particular the disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, low income, and young Oregonians.

Please ensure that Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, is funded and passed out of committee.

Thank you.