Submitter: Karen Schmidlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: SB166

1. Section 1 of this bill is unnecessary. The claim that the right to vote is "not codified" is a bald-faced lie; the right to vote is written into the Oregon Constitution, Article II, Sections 1 and 2. NO OTHER AUTHORITY IS NECESSARY; The legislature cannot re-write the constitution this way.

2. Section 3 of this bill will change our ballots from public record to "secret", as well as make our election process more "secret", thus hiding it from the public, which goes against the constitution. The identity of the person voting is secret, and should remain so, but the ballot is public information. All avenues for the public to review the voting process and outcomes in order to keep the government accountable need to stay in place. If not, tyranny ensues.

3. Sections 4 and 5 are unnecessary, and inappropriate. Of course elections workers should be free from harassment and attack, but we already have laws that protect ALL people from harassment and attack. These people are no more special than any other public or private workers. Sure, people are frustrated with our elections because Oregon has one of the worst and unsecure systems in the country. The shameful former Secretary of State, the owner of this bill, now wants to make our election system even less accountable to the people. it is clear that there is NO need for Section 5; either all are protected or none are. Under the current law, ALL are protected.
Section 26 violates the NVRA of 1993, which requires accurate voter rolls. The maintenance of voter records rests with only the county clerks. Removal of the provision to cancel a voter's registration based on evidence that the voter does not meet the residency requirements of the county is illegal, improper, and unethical.

4. THERE IS NO EMERGENCY! The -1 amendment is flagrantly violating all reasonable usage of the term "emergency", which is an obvious abuse of power and unethical, and should be stricken from the amendment.