

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules:

The American Federation of Teachers is proud to be a defender of democracy both nationally and within our states. As education staff, teachers, faculty, and committed community members, we work each day to make our world a better place. As a labor federation we are a 501(c)(5) organization. Our members are very active in advocating for the issues, elections, and measures which will improve their material and social conditions.

We urge your YES vote on HB 4024. This bill will allow for otherwise small dollar donors to organize, pool, and use resources to advocate effectively, on par with larger donors who have significant checks to write.

This bill will add much needed transparency on large financial interests which impact and influence elections and establishes one of the strongest disclosure systems in the country. This includes requirements to donors who fund nonprofits and independent expenditure committees. It will ensure that Oregonians will see the original sources of funding for advertisements they receive. It will also invest in ORESTAR, a system that everyday people utilize to understand campaigns and their financing.

Community based organizations, small donor committees, and associated caps are well spelled out and detailed in this measure to both acknowledge the tremendous amount of organizing and resources required to build large movement and advocacy organizations, while ensuring that no loopholes exist to be exploited. There are reasonable limits on in-kind contributions which maintain smaller community-based organizations to participate in meaningful and impactful ways. The way it is regulated in this bill in a term and person basis, instead of a dollar amount, ensures that candidates who need translation, childcare, or other support can continue to run for office and serve our communities.

The enforcement and penalties section of this bill creates new accountabilities for serious infractions, improves existing timelines for investigations, and helps build a strong cohesive campaign finance system alongside the other components of the bill.

Thank you for reviewing our testimony. **We urge your YES vote on HB 4024.**

Dr. Andrea Haverkamp
Political and Legislative Organizer
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