

Members of the committee-

My name is Tony Salm, bilingual fifth grade teacher at Heritage Elementary School in Woodburn and president of the Woodburn Education Association. I support House Bill 4024 for the following reasons:

This bill provides transparency and accountability in Oregon's electoral system. Passing this policy will affirm and actualize the fundamental right of Oregonians to know where the money shaping our elections is coming from. By illuminating the influence of big-money special interests, HB 4024 will empower voters with crucial information that has long been obscured.

While this bill also establishes meaningful contribution limits and penalties for violations, one of the most notable aspects of this legislation is its establishment of one of the most robust campaign spending disclosure systems in the entire country. Through innovative reporting requirements, HB 4024 ensures that even funds funneled through independent expenditures, which have previously evaded scrutiny, will now be brought into the light.

This novel approach is particularly significant in addressing the issue of "dark money" in politics. By revealing the original sources of funding behind campaign advertising, voters will finally have the clarity they need to make informed decisions during election season.

Furthermore, HB 4024 builds upon Oregon's proud tradition of transparency in campaign finance by investing in much-needed upgrades to the ORESTAR reporting system. These enhancements will not only streamline the reporting process but also make it more accessible and understandable for everyday Oregonians.

In essence, House Bill 4024 represents an important, if imperfect, step towards a more equitable and transparent electoral process in Oregon. Please pass House Bill 4024.