



February 24, 2024

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Helfrich, Vice Chair Kropf, and Members of the House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 4024 – Campaign Finance Reform, Support

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Helfrich, Vice Chair Kropf, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller (Blackfeet/ Cherokee), and I serve as the Executive Director of NAYA Action Fund. At NAYA Action Fund, we cultivate and support leaders who will shape public policy in a way that consistently elevates the voice and concerns of the Native community. Our vision of systemic change is youth-centered, family-driven, and elder-guided. I write today in support of HB 4024.

Under any new campaign finance reforms the state enacts, the legislature must maintain the ability for 501(c)(4) organizations to participate in the political process in a way that is transparent and accessible to all Oregonians. By being able to donate to candidates, subject to limits applied to "persons," C4s, especially smaller and emerging ones, can support candidates aligned with their mission when they lack resources for independent expenditures. Additionally, C4s need the ability to donate in-kind staff time to campaigns to conduct outreach to overlooked voters and communities which uses significant resources. Restricting or eliminating in-kind staff time would hinder the ability to amplify the voices of those in our communities. Campaign finance reforms should never restrict C4s from conducting nonpartisan voter engagement activities.

As the legislature works to advance these reforms, it's imperative to ensure that C4s are afforded ample opportunity to contribute to the rulemaking process. Upon its passage, the Secretary of State's Office should implement comprehensive education initiatives so organizations, like NAYA Action Fund, can fully understand the implications of these changes. By acknowledging the unique circumstances of C4s, we can strive for balanced reforms that preserve the integrity of community voices. These reforms represent a critical step in mitigating influence and promoting fairness in our democratic processes.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Miller", is placed above the printed name.

William Miller
Executive Director