

Submitter: Carol Scherer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4024

To: Representative Julie Fahey, Chair, House Committee On Rules

Re: HB 4024-5 – Misleading Campaign Finance Limits and Disclosure – Oppose

First of all I want to acknowledge the work and concerns of our allies in the BIPOC and LGBTQ communities. They have accomplished a lot in recent years. That would not have been accomplished without financial resources.

Nevertheless, allowing large loopholes will only force our communities to endlessly chase money. If you leave a loophole, guess who is going to take advantage of it? Big Money. It might work for a few - but it does not resolve the deep-seated problems we are facing.

What we are seeing as Oregonians, is legislators and non-profits having to focus more and more of their time fundraising; spending more and more money in elections instead of engaging the public. Quality candidates don't want to run for office because of the endless chase for money. Money in politics is out of control.

Amendment-5 does not provide for disclosure of the true funders of political ads. The loopholes in Amendment 5 are so large that, in effect, the proposed referral does not provide for meaningful campaign finance limits. Big money is going to continue driving the process.

We deserve and expect better than a pretend bill or ballot initiative.

What is more upsetting to me is the underhanded manner in which this legislation is being introduced, at the very last minute, with little to no prior notice. And the Labor Business alliance does not give me any confidence that HB 4024 is indeed going to provide for meaningful campaign finance reform.

Instead, I am aware of Petition 9 and its limits. The limits in Petition 9 are reasonable, providing for sufficient support for campaigns. Petition 9 also makes the spending of campaign funds more democratic, involving local committees in campaign spending efforts.

Finally, Petition 9 provides for disclosure of the true funders of political acts and closes the "Bribery Clause Exception" in our statutes that allows for... bribery with campaign contributions.

I therefore urge you to oppose bill HB4024. Instead, refer Petition 9 to the ballot or don't do anything - HB4024 is in effect an effort to sabotage, yet again, grassroots efforts to put a lid on runaway money in politics.

Thank you for your consideration, vote NO on HB-4024

Carol Scherer
March 3, 2024