

Submitter: Katherin Kirkpatrick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB644

In the late spring of 2018, I volunteered at Oregon Food Bank along with my daughter and her best friend, as the girls' school required community service to graduate. We were encouraged to volunteer at OFB, and the other mom and I thought it would be a good experience for the girls. After an evening shift of hard physical work, the OFB staff gathered in front of us for a debriefing before we could leave. They said it was to thank us, and in part it was. But just when they had the girls smiling from ear to ear, proud of how they were helping get food to people in need, the staff then handed us all cards, letting us know how they expected us to vote on an upcoming ballot measure. I don't remember which measure it was, but it had to do with fiscal responsibility and cutting spending. It was not directly related to OFB, but they told the gathered crowd that bad people were threatening good services like theirs, and that if we voted for this ballot measure it would mean that people would go without food, etc. I read the bill myself later, and it was not an accurate representation. But more importantly there were a LOT of high school kids there that night, because of PPS's community service requirement. Kids just about to vote for the first time or just shy of voting age. And it was really inappropriate to use a captive audience of kids like that. My daughter and her friend had been so happy at the end of their volunteer shift and then were completely disillusioned to be handed a political pamphlet and cornered at the exit like that.