

Testimony in Support of SB 1014

Netty Jurriaans, Unite Oregon

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Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1014. My name is Netty Jurriaans and I am writing on behalf of Unite Oregon as a policy intern. We are a statewide organization led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty. Many of whom do not primarily speak English and are proud voters.

In Oregon, over 15% of the residents are not native English speakers, that's over 630,000 residents who are impacted by language barriers. It is necessary that information is provided to ALL Oregonians despite what language they speak. By passing this bill, Oregon would allow citizens who do not speak English an opportunity to access statements and information about candidates online and in their preferred language.

Democratic engagement should be easily attainable to all Oregonians. There should be ample opportunities for everyone in Oregon to practice their civic duties, and those opportunities should have no limitations based on language.

At Unite Oregon we stand with immigrant communities and communities of color whose dominant language is not English, and we look forward to seeing their engagement in our electoral system.

Unite Oregon urges you to uplift the voices that often go unheard, and support SB 1014.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Netty Jurriaans

Unite Oregon