

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and advocate for the public good. **AFT-Oregon's leadership unanimously and supports HB 4018 -6 and recommends the legislature pass the bill as amended.**

Oregon is fighting hard for a transparent, robust, and intact democracy against a challenging national landscape from federal threats and corporate power. Fair elections are the foundation of this. The upcoming rollout of recently passed campaign finance reforms is something for us to look forward to – **but the rollout must be done right**. The Secretary of State needs funding and time to do it right. We need to be ambitious and still realistic. This bill gets us there.

Information Technology (IT) is critical to fully resource. IT ages quickly, and due to how fast IT changes and the complexity of our state election infrastructure, it is expensive to get updated for implementation. But like with all things - it will only get more expensive over time. Getting this bill passed now prevents costs going up if we delay it longer.

HB 4018 -6 also has technical fixes that are critical to maintain confidence in our electoral democracy – such as fixes to the penalty matrix to incentivize good self-corrections by campaigns, disclosure and disclaimer requirement language clarifications, and privacy protection fixes for personally identifiable information.

This is a great, timely, and crucial bill. Thank you for your consideration of HB 4018 -6. We look forward with hope towards the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD  
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)