

Written Testimony in Support of HB 4018-6
House Committee on Rules
February 10, 2026



Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Pham, Members
of the Committee:

My name is Erin Kothari and I submit this testimony on behalf of Oregon Futures Lab, a statewide organization that supports and sustains BIPOC leaders in public service, civic engagement, and governance. We urge your support for **HB 4018-6**, the campaign finance reform fix bill.

Oregonians overwhelmingly support campaign contribution limits that level the playing field and ensure our democracy is not dominated by wealthy special interests. Our communities—particularly BIPOC leaders, candidates and grassroots organizations—have long felt the impacts of a system that allows unlimited contributions. Implementing contribution limits on the current schedule is essential to restoring trust and fairness in Oregon elections.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the risk of a rushed or under-resourced rollout. The Secretary of State has been clear that implementing this new system responsibly requires significant resources and time. Without technical fixes and a phased implementation, the current statute could lead to confusion, compliance challenges and unintended consequences that disproportionately burden smaller campaigns and community-based organizations—precisely the people campaign finance reform is meant to empower.

HB 4018 strikes the right balance. It preserves the timeline for contribution limits while allowing for thoughtful, practical implementation of complex new reporting and IT systems. The bill's technical fixes—including protections for personal data privacy, improvements to the penalty matrix to encourage good-faith compliance and clearer disclosure and disclaimer requirements—are necessary to ensure the system works as intended and does not deter participation in civic life.

At a moment when confidence in democratic institutions is fragile, Oregon must get this right. A botched rollout would undermine public trust and create barriers for new and diverse leaders seeking to engage in our political process.

For these reasons, Oregon Futures Lab strongly supports **HB 4018-6** and urges the Committee to move this bill forward. This legislation is a prudent and responsible step toward implementing campaign finance reform in a way that is fair, functional and worthy of Oregon voters.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Kothari
Executive Director, Oregon Futures Lab