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# A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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February 10, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 4018-6 in support of ongoing campaign finance reform technical fixes. The Oregon AFL-CIO is the state labor federation, representing 300,000 workers across the state in our over 40 affiliated labor unions. As such, and as discussed at length in the creation of what became HB 4024, we deeply want Oregonians to be able to participate in elections – whether through voting, direct conversations with candidates and fellow voters, or limiting the influence of billionaires and corporations that drown out the voices of everyday people.

As evidenced by the countless hours so many advocates and experts put into the years leading up to HB 4024 and the hours working on it since it's passed, it's clear that getting this policy right is hard and will take ongoing iterations. And getting it right is critical to our organization and to Oregonians across the state.

HB 4018 with the forthcoming amendments will make critical changes to the penalty matrix to incentivize good behavior, clarify disclosure and disclaimer language and ensure that disclosure of personally identifiable information is kept private, thus making sure that Oregonians who volunteer their time can continue to do so without fear. In addition to these pieces, we ask that you pass HB 4018-6 to achieve the following:

- **Implement Contribution Limits:** Oregonians want - and deserve - fair elections where the voices of everyday people are not drowned out by millionaires and billionaires making unlimited political contributions.
- **Prevent a Disastrous Rollout:** Botching the implementation of this incredibly important policy would undermine confidence in our democratic institutions at a crucial time for strengthening faith and transparency in our elections.
- **Devote Resources and Time:** The Secretary of State has made it clear that they need at least \$25 million to implement this law fully, and we know that every day that passes, the price tag goes up.

We appreciate this committee taking the time to continue to be thoughtful about these changes to ensure that the law is not rushed or done in a way that has unintended or disparate consequences for historically or currently marginalized Oregonians and our democracy at large. We support HB 4018-6 because it is the best way to implement contribution limits while also ensuring *responsible* implementation to achieve our shared goal of facilitating democratic participation in Oregon in a fair and equitable way.