

Testimony on Campaign Finance Reform 2026

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the House Rules Committee:

My name is Tan Perkins, and I am here today representing SEIU 503, a membership organization representing over 85,000 people, many of whom contribute small amounts every month to ensure they have a meaningful voice in political action. We stand in strong support of HB 4018 -6 because Oregonians have stood together to demand a campaign finance system where the voices of everyday people are not drowned out by millionaires and billionaires making unlimited contributions. We believe this bill is the best path forward to level the playing field now while ensuring a responsible and successful launch of these critical reforms.

At a time when our democracy is under attack, we must avoid a disastrous rollout of the new campaign finance system. Botching the implementation of such a vital policy would undermine public confidence in our democratic institutions at a moment when we need to strengthen faith and transparency. The Secretary of State has been clear that at least \$25 million is needed to implement this law fully, and a thoughtful, phased-in approach is the only way to avoid potential disaster as we navigate a complex new IT project.

Furthermore, this bill includes necessary technical fixes to mitigate unintended consequences identified by the Secretary of State. These include:

- **Protecting Privacy:** Making fixes to the disclosure of personally identifiable information to protect the privacy of individual Oregonians.
- **Incentivizing Compliance:** Adjusting the penalty matrix to encourage good behavior and self-correction when reporting errors occur, rather than simply being punitive.
- **Clarity for Regulators:** Refining disclosure and disclaimer language to make it easier for both regulators and practitioners to understand and comply with the new rules.

As a membership organization, we appreciate the need for clear standards that allow our members to confidently participate in our democracy. We support the **prudent pace** established in this proposal, as it balances the urgent demand for contribution limits with the practical realities of launching an entirely new system.

Oregon has long been a leader in fair, transparent, and accessible elections. We cannot afford to rush into a botched implementation that causes Oregonians to lose faith in our electoral process. Please pass HB 4018 -6 to ensure that Oregon's campaign finance reform meets the high standards that our voters deserve.