

Testimony Ibrahim Coulibaly – 2026 Campaign Finance Reform

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the committee:

My name is Ibrahim Coulibaly, and I am the elected chair of SEIU 503's CAPE committee. I also work at the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), a state agency dedicated to protecting worker rights. I am here today representing over 85,000 workers—homecare providers, university staff, and state employees—who believe Oregon's democracy should belong to everyone. Most of our members are like me; we contribute small amounts every month, often just \$5 or \$10, because it is the only way we can pool our resources to have a meaningful voice in political action. Our PAC is driven by worker-led decision-making, ensuring that our collective voice is heard alongside those with the largest checkbooks.

We are in strong support of HB 4018 -6 because it is the best path to level the playing field now for everyday people. However, as a state worker, I know firsthand that state employees often feel the brunt of rushed projects that fail. When the legislature passes complex policies without a realistic rollout plan, it is the workers on the ground and the public who suffer the consequences. For us, success means successful implementation, and we cannot afford a disastrous rollout of this new campaign finance system.

The Secretary of State has been clear that at least \$25 million is required to fully implement this law, which involves a massive and complex new IT project. A prudent, phased-in pace is the only responsible way to ensure this system works from day one. Rushing this implementation would only undermine public confidence in our democratic institutions at a time when we need to strengthen faith and transparency.

Our members also support the technical fixes in this bill that protect the privacy of individual Oregonians and refine the penalty matrix. It is vital to adjust the system to incentivize good behavior and self-correction when reporting errors occur, rather than simply being punitive. We ask you to pass HB 4018 -6 to ensure Oregon's campaign finance reforms meet the high standards that workers and all voters deserve.