

Submitter:

Donna Noonan

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4018

I strongly oppose HB 4018-6! Having worked as a volunteer on several campaign reform measures in Oregon over many years, I am dismayed by the Oregon Legislature's last minute amendment to HB 4018, which changes completely the intention and heart of campaign finance reform in Oregon. I supported HB 4024 in 2024 because the Legislature promised meaningful campaign finance reform in place of an Initiative Petition from the Honest Elections Coalition. Based on my experiences gathering initiative signatures for campaign finance reform, which voters overwhelmingly favor, the Initiative would have passed had it gone to voters.

The Legislature, with HB 4018-6 betrays that promise and trust! I see that it doubles limits for multi-candidate committees from \$5,000 per election cycle to \$5000 per year; it deletes bans on donors who make contributions that exceed what a recipient can legally accept (does that mean donors are not legally responsible for violations?); it allows contributors to donate the contribution limit many times over rather than having a one time limit; it allows in-kind donations to include 2,000 hours of staff time per year to any candidate for local office - whereas the 2024 law allows none; it changes limits in-kind contributions from all sources per 2-year election cycle to allowing those limits for every individual, corporation, or union donation; it allows any contributor to avoid reporting on any amount up to \$49,000 on independent expenditures per candidate, thus allowing an entity to spend millions. It also delays implementation until 2031. This is an egregious stripping of meaningful campaign finance reforms that voters want. I am in strong opposition!

Labor, business, and good government groups supported HB 4024. In contrast, HB 4018-6 was developed in secret by large money donors - business and unions - without input from the good government groups that include Honest Elections Oregon, League of Women Voters, Common Cause, among others. Obviously HB 4018-6 would not survive scrutiny outside the big money groups. It would not survive scrutiny by voters. It also must not survive this Legislative session!