

Oppose Senate Bill 1599

Claire Lynn

February 11, 2026

Co-Chairs Jama and Gomberg, and Members of the Committee -

For the record my name is Claire Lynn. In full disclosure, I do work in the building, but I am testifying in front of you today as a private citizen and more importantly, as someone who signed the referendum petition and helped gather signatures when the majority party in this building failed to listen.

This week, I was asked by a member of the public why we have the “Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition 2026-302,” and why we could not just move this bill through an existing committee.

I had to tell them - because the leaders in this building saw the opposition before, they knew they were going to hear it again, and if they created a special Joint Committee they only have from Oregonians in one hearing (today being a second day) before they can push it through both chambers without having to hear push back twice.

That is not good process. That is not leadership.

Oregon families understand that our state government needs to learn to live within their means like they have to.

And they are tired of leaders in Salem telling them they know what is best, and that they know what they can afford.

Oregonians deserve to be able to have their say on the November 2026 ballot with the full scope of the Oregon electorate participating.

This proposal does not have to move forward. There is plenty of time for this body to listen and change course. It just takes leaders who are willing to say “We hear you.”

Please oppose Senate Bill 1599.