

Submitter: Brianne Foster  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1509

I support this measure.

Oregon requires that presidential electors take a pledge to vote faithfully, and the parties themselves have robust processes to select presidential electors. However, there is no enforcement mechanism that will ensure electors follow through on their pledge. This is particularly concerning given the recent efforts to improperly coerce officials who help contribute to making our elections work.

SB 1509 would address the potential danger of faithless electors by allowing our Secretary of State to review and enforce elector pledges, invalidating any ballot cast in violation. In addition, if any presidential elector does cast a ballot faithlessly, this legislation will require that elector to be removed from their position and that they be replaced. These additions reinforce currently existing statute and create better accountability within the process.

Twenty-four states already have laws like this in place to guard against this threat. This includes many other Western states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Washington State. To put an even finer point on it, this bill has passed in red states, blue states, and purple states.

This legislation is not about party, and it's not about politics. It's about principle.

By passing SB 1509, the Oregon Legislative Assembly would be protecting our state's voters, protecting the voice of our state, protecting our presidential electors, and helping protect our nation's democracy by reducing the chances that our presidential elections in 2028 or beyond could be overturned.