



March 25, 2013

Testimony in Support of HB 2419

Chair Garrett, members of the committee. For the record my name is Noah Manger and I'm the Program Director at the Bus Project. We engage young people and new people in the democratic process. I'm here today to encourage you to support HB 2419 to increase the transparency of Oregon's elections.

The entry point for many young Oregonians on the route to civic participation is voting in their first elections. The Bus Project wants to make sure that these first experiences with our election system are positive: that they build trust in our government and instill the belief that each vote truly counts. One of the best ways we can do this is by making our elections as transparent as possible.

Oregon is lucky enough to have a world-class electronic records system in OreStar, which makes it easy for any Oregonians to see who's contributing to which campaign so they can make informed choices when they fill out their ballots. But in the final two weeks of an election, at a time when thousands of votes are being cast every day, it's entirely possible for voters to miss crucial information because of the 7 day deadline to report contributions.

In the final 14 days of an election we see a frenzy of financial activity. In 2012, over \$6.1 million was contributed to or transferred between campaigns in amounts over \$1,000 in the final 14 days. That's a lot of money for Oregonians to not know about until many of them have already cast a ballot.

Now, it would be asking way too much of the good people who give their time—either paid or unpaid—to serve in our elections to report *all* the contributions they receive within two days. But we don't believe it's asking too much for campaigns to report the largest contributions they receive within two days so we can all be more informed voters. Moreover, this bill balances the increased workload by extending the deadline for smaller contributions from 7 days to 14.

HB 2419 is a small fix, but one that continues to move Oregon's already excellent transparent elections further into the sunlight.

Thank you for your time.