

April 10, 2013

Re: Testimony of Frederick Olson, 2797 Breckenridge Loop NW, Salem, OR 97304 – Support for HJM 8

Chair Garrett and Members of the House Committee on Rules

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of HJM 8.

I am testifying as a private citizen and as a military veteran. Since my retirement, I have also been a volunteer advocate on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities.

My support for this measure is driven by the following observations:

- Reports that many state legislatures are considering or have adopted measures to make registration and voting more difficult allegedly to prevent voter fraud;
- There seems to be no credible evidence of widespread voter fraud;
- There is strong reason to think that measures such as 1) requiring government-issued photo ID to vote; and 2) requiring documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote; and 3) restricting the number of polling places resulting in long waits to vote in certain communities have the effect of suppressing the vote of certain groups.

These measures are especially burdensome for populations such as seniors and people with disabilities many of whom are very low income and are faced with enough challenges without having additional obstacles blocking the exercise of their voting rights.

I hope that you share my sense of outrage that restrictions on voting are justified in the name of protecting the integrity of the electoral process when the reason seems more apparent and much less lofty.

Please support HJM 8.

Frederick Olson