

Testimony against HB 3175

House Committee on Rules

Wednesday March 13, 2013

3:00 P.M. HR 50

Members:

Rep. Chris Garrett, Chair
Rep. Wally Hicks, Vice-Chair
Rep. Val Hoyle, Vice-Chair
Rep. Phil Barnhart
Rep. Vicki Berger
Rep. Michael Dembrow
Rep. Paul Holvey
Rep. Bob Jenson
Rep. Bill Kennemer

HB 3175

I strongly oppose the passage of HB 3175 as written.

The purpose of this bill is to endlessly “remind” college students in the state's community and university system to register to vote. This is undertaken by links on college web pages, contact via email, and contact via class time presentations.

This is wrong in so many ways! Voting is a responsibility of our citizens. These students are responsible enough to make it to class on time, study, take (and presumably pass) tests and course work, and get their degrees. They should be able to be responsible enough to register to vote. We should not put the responsibility of “nagging them” on the school administration, or on the backs of the taxpayers.

I would also appeal to the committee to ask themselves – why is the public college student so special? Why should they be singled out for the hand holding they will receive if this bill becomes law? Why does the cost of the nagging fall on the financially strapped state college system? How can the web pages, emails, and presenters of the materials during college courses determine if students are actually eligible to vote in Oregon? How will it determine which students are registered in other states? College students are always pulling pranks – how will this privilege of registering to vote, and subsequently voting, not be a subject of these pranks? What safeguards will be in place?

I urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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Oregon Republican Party Election Integrity Chair