



February 18, 2014

Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **SB 1581**

Chair Rosenbaum:

As the Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) Executive Director of Government Relations and an Oregon Student Association (OSA) Board of Directors Member, I have worked very closely with student lead voter registration efforts. Undoubtedly, this experience has given me insight on challenges students face when attempting to register their peers to vote.

SB 1581 enumerates several vital points of access that are crucial to successful voter registration efforts—specifically new student orientation programming and residence life programs. Access to these events is crucial for targeting a large population of students who have likely not updated their voter registration information upon attending their university. It is unfortunate that these events also have some of the most stringent restrictions that prevent access for voter registration efforts. SB 1581 is needed to clearly outline that these types of events are, as they should be, acceptable places to register our peers to vote.

Institutionalized access to the classroom and faculty contact information will also enhance the ability for students on my campus and students across the state to register students to vote. From personal experience, I am confident in saying that access to the classroom is what makes or breaks student voter registration efforts. University classrooms are the places where students are thinking about and discussing the future of their fields and society. It only makes sense that these are also places where they can be reminded of their ability to make an impact through civic engagement.

SB 1581 increases and institutionalizes access to voter registration information on campuses in every corner of our state, which can only enhance our state's civic dialogue. As a student and an Oregonian, I urge the committee to pass SB 1581.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor D. Sarman', is written over a large, stylized flourish.

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cc: Members of the Committee
Vice Chair, Senator Ted Ferrioli
Senator Lee Beyer
Senator Ginny Burdick
Senator Bruce Starr