



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents

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Good Afternoon Chair Rosenbaum , Vice Chair Ferrioli and members of the committee,

My name is Beatriz Gutierrez, I am student at the university of Oregon and Co-chair of the Oregon Students of Color Coalition. Thank you for giving us this work session, and taking time to allow me to speak to you all.

I was recruited to do non-partisan voter registration my very first year at the university and that changed my whole perspective on civic engagement. Registering to vote was my first step to being part of the democratic process which then led me to take an active role in encouraging my peers to do the same. I was part of the team that organized the fall vote or vote campaign last year at the University of Oregon. And although we had a great team and positive experiences, we did have our struggles. For example, each year we have to meet with our administration and create a process to access students moving into the residence halls. This is mainly due to not having a policy or law in place to fall back on. Residence halls are one of the best places to have students update their voter registration because they have their ID and mail box number on hand. In addition, having a successful voter registration campaign is necessary for student involvement in the electoral process and because many students move each year, this causes a constant need for students to update their voter registration. These are examples of obstacles we have to overcome to register our peers to vote. In conversations I've had with students from several campuses, I have come to realize that some students have even less access to register their peers to vote than we do. This bill would ensure that all students in the state of Oregon have an equal opportunity to register to vote on campus.

SB 1581 is crucial to continuing the nonpartisan civic engagement that we do across the state. This bill will help to clarify what the relationship should be between the administration, faculty and students. We want to continue are valued partnership with these stake holders and educate students about the voting process. The access points listed in this bill are a great foundation for students to talk to students about updating their voter registration. To be able to engage in conversations with each other opens up the door for discussions and allows for students to be educated on important issues. This bill also helps to reinforce the communication between the elections office and mailing rooms on campuses. It's really important that students are able to get their ballots and that campus mailing rooms are prepared to facilitate the influx of ballots that come in before the election. Passing this bill will help campuses with coordination between students, faculty and staff to ensure to greatest engagement in the electoral process.

Students are asking for this committee to vote YES on SB 1581 and with it a do pass recommendation to the senate floor.

Thanks again for your time and hard work on this issue.

Beatriz Gutierrez

University of Oregon, Oregon Student Association, Oregon Students of Color Coalition