

January 31, 2015

To: Chairs and Members of the Oregon House Rules Committee

RE: **Testimony on House Bill 2177 for Hearing on February 2, 2015**

From: Elizabeth Van Staaveren, McMinnville OR

I oppose passage of HB 2177, for many reasons.

Here is the Oregon Citizens Lobby's evaluation of the bill, which I support. I've edited the text slightly.

This bill eliminates the voter registration process as we know it. It is Oregon's version of Automatic/Universal Voter Registration. Under this bill, people will not register themselves. The state will ascertain the data from the DMV and automatically register them. If a person does not qualify to vote, the person has to opt out or he/she will be sent a ballot. The person's signature will come from the DMV files. Nothing in this bill says that the Secretary of State will assure that only citizens are registered to vote.

This bill allows politicians to stuff the ballot box with votes from people who may have been paid for their vote, who may not know or care anything about the measures or candidates on the ballot. Voting is a sacred privilege of citizenship; it is the duty of a loyal citizen to vote, after apprising him or herself about the issue at hand. This bill demeans the importance of the vote by making registration automatic and less accurate than current procedures do, and current procedures are too loose already.

Elections must be honest and believed by the voting public to be honest, or our whole government sinks into corruption and we lose something very precious that has sustained our country as a leader in the enlightened world.

Some people don't want to be a registered voter even though they're entitled by citizenship and otherwise to vote. People should not be automatically registered; it's undemocratic and undesirable in a free country.

**Oregon needs a law requiring proof of citizenship before registering to vote. Otherwise, with illegal immigration uncontrolled and rampant as it is now, it's certain that illegal aliens are voting and under this bill would continue to do so probably in far greater numbers.**

**There is a new study of illegal voting in the U.S. that proves beyond a doubt there is substantial voting by illegal aliens already. It's very wrong to slacken what few safeguards we have that ensure voting by citizens only.**

The study I refer to is: "Do non-citizens vote in U.S. elections?" by Jesse T. Richman, Gulshan A. Chattha, and David C. Earnest, published in Electoral Studies, v.35, Dec. 2014, pages 149-

157. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261379414000973>. The article costs \$19.95 to download. I have a copy which I can lend the Committee on condition it be returned to me.

The findings are described in *The Washington Times* of October 28, 2014 in an oped, “The Voter-ID myth crashes,” by columnist Mona Charen, available at:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/391262/voter-id-myth-crashes-mona-charen>

In summary, please vote down HB 2177. It is a harmful bill that will bring corruption and degradation of the democratic processes this country has honored for over 200 years.

Thank you.

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House Rules Committee Members:

Rep. Val Hoyle, Chair

Rep. Vic Gilliam, Vice-Chair

Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, Vice-Chair

Rep. Phil Barnhart

Rep. Bill Kennemer

Rep. Mike McLane

Rep. Rob Nosse

Rep. Dan Rayfield

Rep. Carl Wilson