

AARP Real Possibilities in

Oregon

9200 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard, #410 | Clackamas, OR 97015
1-866-554-5360 | Fax: 503-652-9933 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/or | oraarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpor
facebook.com/AARPOregon

March 9, 2014

To: Oregon House Committee on Rules, Representative Val Hoyle, chair

From: AARP Oregon

Re: Support for House Bill 2945, public release of all data relevant to redistricting plans, including political data.

AARP is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization representing and advising more than 37 million members age 50 and over on matters of health care, financial security, consumer protection, livable communities, government integrity and civic engagement. In Oregon, we have a large membership spread through the state, and many volunteers active on public and social issues.

AARP's policy on government accountability and civic engagement strongly endorses transparency and openness in government as vital in a democracy. Our organization believes that documents and other information used to make government policy and decisions must be public. Citizens have a right to know and judge the materials used in making decisions that impact their lives. Openness in government fosters public trust and results in better public policy.

Accordingly, we strongly endorse House Bill 2945, with amendments. AARP believes in making public all information used in drafting legislative and congressional redistricting plans in Oregon. The amended bill should make clear the individual district voting history and aggregate party affiliation of constituents in any proposed district must be released with a draft redistricting plan. We urge this information to be made public in a timely way so that interested parties can study it and respond before a final redistricting plan is created. Political data is equally important as other characteristics in judging the fairness and efficacy of a redistricting plan.

Respectfully,

Steven Carter

Volunteer, Executive Council member, AARP Oregon

AARP
Real Possibilities