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Testimony of Patty Katz, Oregon Action
Senate Joint Resolution 5
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My name is Patty Katz and I am the Portland Metro Organizer of Oregon Action, a statewide, multi-racial and multi-ethnic community organization dedicated to social justice. Oregon Action assists people to organize on their own behalf – with a focus on low-income people, people of color and others with limited access to traditional structures of power and policy-making. It is on behalf of those communities that I am speaking out today to voice our support for Senate Joint Resolution 5.

Oregon Action fights every day for middle-class and working-class families in Oregon. We fight for increasing access to healthcare. We fight for economic justice, like increasing the minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, and sick leave for when family members have to care for each other. We fight for immigration reform, so that everyone in this country has a chance at the American Dream.

You know that Oregon Action fights for these values every day. And you know what our biggest obstacle is.

Money! Particularly, money in politics.

Ever since Congress and the Supreme Court have been rolling back campaign finance reform, we have seen money pouring into campaigns at an alarming rate. Campaigns for even the smallest offices are becoming more and more expensive. And all that money from big donors drowns out the voices of middle-class and working-class Oregonians.

One thing is clear: money in politics is **preventing progress for working families.**

We can change that. Oregon Action is teaming up with many great organizations like Common Cause, The Bus Project, and the League of Women Voters to pass contribution limits in Oregon. In the Legislature, we are working with a strong coalition of state senators and representatives to pass **Senate Joint Resolution 5**, which would allow us to establish contribution limits for candidates. If we have contribution limits, we can send a signal that wealthy donors cannot buy our elections. That votes mean more than checkbooks.

Oregon is now one of only six states that do not limit direct contributions to candidates. You can help change that even in this post-*Citizens United* world.

On behalf of Oregon Action, I thank you for considering **Senate Joint Resolution 5** and urge you to vote this resolution today.

Patty Katz
Portland Metro Organizer
Oregon Action