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## **Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government**

June 11, 2015, Public Hearing on S.B. 55A  
Testimony of Rachele Altman  
Legislative Director, Secretary of State's Office

Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Smith, and Members of the Subcommittee:

For the record, I am Rachele Altman, Legislative Director for the Secretary of State's Office. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 55A. I will be focusing my remarks today on the -A10 amendments, which are technical in nature. These amendments were drafted by Rep. Taylor and requested by the Secretary of State's Office.

The primary goal of the -A10 amendments is to maintain the constitutional independence of the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer while providing those offices with the same new tools and authority that S.B. 55A gives to other agencies and that facilitate agency debt collection.

As background, the -6 amendments adopted by the Senate Rules Committee excluded the Secretary of State and the State Treasurer from parts of the bill in an effort to maintain the constitutional independence of those offices. We appreciate this intent. However, we find that certain provisions in S.B. 55A that broadly carve the Secretary of State and State Treasurer out of entire sections of the bill—rather than specific subsections—prevent our agencies from receiving the debt collection tools and authority that other state agencies receive under S.B. 55A and current law. We believe that the proposed -A10 amendments would provide the Secretary of State and State Treasurer with the desired debt collection tools and authority that other agencies receive while still maintaining our constitutional independence by ensuring that our agencies will not be subject to DAS rulemaking and DAS oversight or approval.

Of final note, the -A10's make technical changes requested by Oregon Department of Justice to ensure consistency across ORS Chapter 293. These changes would ensure S.B. 55 refers to "liquidated and delinquent accounts," instead of simply "delinquent accounts."

For all of these reasons, the Secretary of State's Office asks for your support of the -A10 amendments at a future work session on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions.