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Testimony on Senate Bill 1586

Common Cause Oregon supports the passage of Senate Bill 1586.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works to safeguard and improve the democratic process. For more than 40 years, the organization has helped strengthen public participation and faith in our institutions of self-government, and has worked to ensure that government serves and is accountable to the public interest.

Senate Bill 1586 is a forward-thinking and common sense reform to ensure that our elections are accessible to every voter.

Common Cause Oregon supports the idea that the burden of securing and paying for postage should not fall on the voter. The state has an interest in promoting a quick and simple method for voters to make their voices heard. And this is one thoughtful way that we can encourage people to mail their ballots in earlier, and thus redistribute the processing burden on county elections offices away from the final days of the election.

Common Cause Oregon supports ensuring that every college student in Oregon can easily register to vote on their campuses, and can cast their ballots at drop-off locations close to their campuses. College students and young people have lower voter registration and participation rates than many other populations in Oregon. Part of this is due to the financial costs and geographic burdens that disproportionately affect young voters. SB 1586 would begin to address many of these factors.

It is not necessary to place hurdles on Oregonians who just want to have a say in what policies are right for their communities. Common Cause Oregon supports Senate Bill 1586, and urges the members of the Senate Committee on Rules to vote this bill out of committee with a Due Pass recommendation.