



Smart policies for today's families.

March 6, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB 683: Pre-Paid Ballot Postage
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for SB 683, which would require pre-paid business reply mail postage for all Oregon ballots. Family Forward Oregon supports this concept to ensure all Oregonians have free and unencumbered access to voting.

Oregon has led the way on increasing voter access; we were the first state in the nation to implement the vote-by-mail process for all elections and the first state to implement “motor voter” automatic voter registration. As a state, we have demonstrated our commitment to voting access and hold a strong value that all eligible voters in our state should have the opportunity to have their voices heard as part of our democratic process.

SB 683 would remove one barrier to voting participation by requiring the state to pay for postage for all ballots using business reply mail. SB 683 would ensure voting access to those who experience barriers to voting because they cannot return their ballot in person, including: Oregonians with disabilities, Oregonians serving in the military who are stationed overseas, and busy families who do not keep a ready supply of stamps on hand.

We believe our democracy is at its healthiest when everyone can participate. When women continue to be underrepresented in civic spaces, we need policies like SB 683 that make it easier for women and all working families to cast their vote and have their voices heard. Requiring postage be paid on Oregon ballots ensures that no Oregonian has to worry about postage in order to vote.