



March 6, 2017

Dear Majority Leader Burdick and Members of the Committee,

We, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), are writing to express our support for SB 683- requiring the state to cover the cost of ballot return envelopes.

The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of culturally-specific, community based organizations working to advance racial equity in Oregon. The right to vote is fundamental to a thriving democracy. The Oregon Legislature made incredible strides toward racial equity by passing motor voter in 2015, which made registering to vote more streamlined and convenient for communities of color and first time voters. Most new registrants who have been automatically registered through the new motor voter law are people of color, and at least 42% of those new registrants don't have access to stamps in their homes. Applying a stamp to a ballot may not seem like much, but it could make a difference for a single working parent who doesn't have a postage stamp at home or live near a drop box location. Now, we are calling on the legislature to take the next logical step toward removing barriers to exercising our fundamental right to vote.

The Coalition of Communities hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to increase voter participation in Oregon's elections by supporting SB 683.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Manjarrez".

Advocacy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color

