

To: House Committee on Rules
From: AFT-Oregon
Date: March 16, 2017
Re: Support for House Bill 2871

Chair Williamson and members of the committee,

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon (AFT-Oregon), I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2871. AFT-Oregon represents approximately 15,000 workers in Oregon's community college and universities in faculty, graduate employee, and classified positions, K-12 classified positions, and child care workers.

Every day, our members work directly with students who range from pre-K to post-doctoral studies. They see firsthand the positive impact of the changing demographics of our state. There are many citizens in Oregon for whom English is not their first or primary language. That diversity adds to the richness of our state and those voters deserve the ability to accurately educate themselves on important issues and offices on the ballot.

The issues on the ballot and the positions of candidates are often complicated voters need an opportunity to carefully and accurately study the facts and come to an informed decision. We should make it easier for voters to do so.

While we are still unsure about the extent of the problem or the best way to address it, the recent workgroup on this issue came up with many thoughtful issues and questions. This bill will help move us to address those questions and help us find solutions.

AFT-Oregon respectfully urges your support for House Bill 2871.

Sincerely,



Marcus Swift
Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
AFT-Oregon