



Oregon School Employees Association

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March 16, 2017

House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2869, HB 2871, and HB 2872 – Voter Access Bills

Chair Williamson and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Soren Metzger and I am writing on behalf of the 21,000 members of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) in support of House Bills 2869, 2871, and 2872 – the voter access bills.

OSEA represents members working in nearly all levels of public education including Head Start programs, K12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members throughout the state speak many different languages, greatly benefiting the students and families they serve. Just as these educators extend their translation services to schools, students and families – so too should the state extend translated election materials to ensure accurate and fairness in the democratic election process.

House Bill 2869 allows for the Secretary of State to collect existing primary language data from state agencies who may already be privy to such information in order to update voter registration files. House Bill 2871 will study how best to implement language selection in the voter registration process in order for the Secretary of State to implement that process as required by House Bill 2872.

OSEA supports equitable changes to election law to increase democratic participation in the political process and urges your support of House Bills 2869, 2871, and 2872 - voter access bills.

Thank you,

Soren Metzger
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