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From: Candice Aiston <candice@candiceaistonlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:44 AM
To: SRULES Exhibits
Subject: Written testimony on Senate Bill 888

My name is Candice Aiston. I am an attorney in Portland, Oregon, and I am submitting my testimony on behalf of Indivisible Oregon District 3, in favor of Oregon Senate Bill 888, which would require major political party candidates for President or Vice President to provide their most current tax return, in order to appear on primary or general election ballot and voters' pamphlet.

Have you ever looked at a warning label and thought to yourself, "Why would they need this warning label? Who would do this?" I just looked at my bottle of Clorox toilet bowl cleaner this morning and it told me not to put any in my eyes or drink any. Why would they need to tell me this? The sad thing is that the warning is likely there because of actual people who put the cleaner in their eyes and who drank it. And we find ourselves in a position today where we have to make a rule that should not have to be a rule, because the custom is obvious. It has always been customary that candidates provided their returns when they ran for president, and it now becomes necessary to make this a rule because of one person who defied the customary requirements. Tax returns provide the press and the public an opportunity to learn about any conflicts of interest before the election. The most recent election has shown us that we can no longer rely on custom to dictate the behavior of the candidates. It has also shown us that we need to be more diligent about discovering conflicts of interest before the election. We are asking for a tool to help us to do this.

This bill is a no-brainer to us. This bill is a bill for transparency by people running for the most powerful office in the country. We put a lot of trust and responsibility on our president, and transparency is key to earning that trust. Transparency is a growing concern among the entire electorate. Both parties are concerned with conflicts of interest and corruption. Pew Research has been doing polls since 1958 about whether Americans trust their government. In recent years, trust peaked at around 55% in the year 2000 and has been steadily declining ever since. As of 2015, 26% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they can trust the federal government nearly always or most of the time, compared with 11% of Republicans and Republican leaners. I shudder to think what the numbers will be for 2017. So trust in government is not a partisan issue, and we need to do what we can to restore that trust. Transparency is key. Oregonians would like to hear from their lawmakers that they care about trust and transparency. This bill is a step in that direction. Please give us this tool to confirm our trust in you and in any presidents we elect in the future.

Thank you.

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To your family's health & prosperity,

Candice N. Aiston
Estate Planning Attorney

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Trusts & Estates | Parents & Families

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings."

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