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To: House Committee on Rules
From: Tabitha Pitzer
RE: HB 3408

Hello Chair Williamson, Vice Chair McLane, my Representative Vice Chair Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tabitha Pitzer, I am a student at Oregon State University, and I am here to ask for your support for HB 3408. For the past three years, I have been actively involved on my campus registering students to vote through the Oregon Student Association's Vote OR Vote campaign. Vote OR Vote is an annual non-partisan campaign in which students in public higher education across the state of Oregon actively reach out to students on their campus to register them to vote, provide non-partisan voter education, and encourage all students to turn out to vote.

We are very successful in our voter registration efforts, registering over 4,000 Beavers to vote last November, because we seek to make it as easy as possible to engage in the political process. Our voter registration process is simple, we provide students voter registration cards and then turn in the cards to our local elections office, eliminating the need for students to take time out of their busy schedules to go submit their registration card. Sometimes we receive cards that are incomplete, in this instance we try to contact students to have them come into our student government office and complete them. However, we are only given 5 days to do so before we are obligated to turn them into the elections office. It is at this point that we instill faith in the system and hope that our elections office will do all that they can to complete the card. HB 3408 outlines processes for elections offices to go through to ensure that they are doing all that they reasonably can to complete registration cards, including things like accessing previous voter registration information that third parties do not have access to for card completion purposes, and simply codifies the processes that many of our partners in elections offices are already carrying out. HB 3408 also allows third party entities, like myself, to continue to do the voter registration efforts that we do and simply ensures that we will continue to have the ability to turn in voter registration cards on behalf of registrants.

When people register to vote through a third party, or when cards are given to elections offices, people often expect that they will then receive a ballot—sometimes unaware that their card is incomplete. It is our duty to ensure that we do everything in our power to complete that card so they can engage in the political process. Voting is one of the most essential parts of our democracy. Just as accessible voting is of key importance to a functioning and thriving democracy, so is accessible voter registration. Please support HB 3408 to allow us to continue to engage our communities in one of our fundamental rights as citizens. Thank you.