



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director
In Support of HB 2927
House Committee on Rules
May 18, 2017**

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports HB 2927, which would enact the Interstate Compact for Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote. As a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, the ACLU of Oregon supports efforts that further core principles of democracy.

The Interstate Compact provides that state election officials in all states participating in the plan would award their Electoral College votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact would not go into effect until enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral vote – 270 of the 538 electoral votes. Currently, the compact has been enacted into law in eleven states with 165 electoral votes.

HB 2927 ensures that every vote counts, furthering the principle of one person, one vote. By ensuring that each vote has an equal impact on the outcome of the Presidential Election, a national popular vote gives each citizen equal power in the election, regardless of the state in which the voter lives. Instead of voters in a few swing states deciding the outcome, every vote in every state will have an equal opportunity in electing the president.

The bill will ensure that the candidate with the most votes wins. The compact would eliminate the possibility that a candidate who received the most popular votes, but did not receive the requisite 270 Electoral College votes needed to win, could lose the election.²

The ACLU of Oregon supports HB 2927 because it is a bipartisan and constitutional effort. As a bipartisan effort, HB 2927 reflects the fact that the promotion of democratic principles that strengthen our democracy is not a partisan issue. The bill is also consistent with Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution, which provides that: “Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors...” Under this provision, Oregon has the inherent power to select Electors as long as other provisions of the Constitution are not violated.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 2927.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonprofit organization with more than 40,000 members in the State of Oregon.

² This has happened five times in American history: in 1824 (Adams-Jackson), 1876 (Hayes-Tilden), 1888 (Harrison-Cleveland), 2000 (Bush-Gore), and 2016 (Trump-Clinton).