Esteemed Members of the House Rules Committee:

State-level winner-take-all rules for choosing Electoral College electors has made it possible for candidates who lose the national popular vote to nonetheless become president. This is because the winner-take-all system disenfranchises millions of Americans who do not vote in accord with the majority in their state.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact preserves the Electoral College, honoring the views of those who see benefit in doing so. It rests on the constitutional authority of state legislators to establish rules for choosing the electors, thus fully honoring state sovereignty regarding voting rules. In my view, and in the views of many Oregonians, it would be shocking if the state legislature failed to stand up for the right of the American people to see in office the president that most of us voted for.

I urge you to pass HB 2927 quickly out of committee; to speak in the House for passage; and to prevail upon your Senate colleagues to vote unconditionally for Oregon to immediately join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Respectfully, Martha Balshem, Ph.D. Professor Emerita of Sociology Portland State University