

TO: Senate Rules Committee

DA: June 21, 2017

Re: House Bill 2927



Chair Burdick, members of the committee,

My name is Nikki Fisher and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Bus Project. Our organization is committed to making politics more accessible and engaging youth in the democratic process. The Bus Project supports House Bill 2927, the National Popular Vote bill, because we believe that every vote matters and every voice should be heard in every election.

There is no bigger deterrent to participating in our democratic process than feeling disenfranchised by that process. Out of 45 Presidents, 5 of them have been elected without receiving the most votes nationwide. Two of those were in the last 20 years, meaning that young voters - voters aged 18-29 - have seen two of those elections in their lifetime. When your vote means less than a vote in other states, or when your state isn't considered a "swing" state and thus candidates avoid them all together, it can make you feel like your vote doesn't matter.

Thus, the current system creates a self-perpetuating cycle that discourages youth voter turnout and allows a few states to determine the outcome of our nation's elections. By passing National Popular Vote, Oregon would join the 10 other states and the District of Columbia that have already enacted the compact, and move us further down a path where one person equals one vote and that our President would truly be nominated by popular vote.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important issue.