

Honorable Chair Williamson and House Rules Committee Members,

I am opposed to SB229A with or without the amendments.

The Constitution of our state gives citizens the right to a referendum. The time, place, and manner of that process is outlined clearly in the law already. To come in less than two weeks before the session ends, while we're on 1-hour notice and the public can't get here to weigh in, and to do so under a hurried amendment, is highly objectionable.

Our Constitution also allows voters the right to petition their government in a fair and equitable manner. The regularly scheduled General Election is when the widest population of voters turn out for an election. The net effect of bypassing the general election is akin to voter suppression.

To usurp the ballot titling authority from the Attorney General, and redistribute that power to the legislature for partisan purposes is wholly unacceptable, and voters should be allowed to weigh in on that decision as well. It's a big shift in policy from what we do now. Voters are entitled to a fair, predictable process.

Worse, the committee this amendment attempts to create to draft a ballot title creates a political imbalance and an abuse of power - using two members from the majority party in each chamber, and only one from the minority. By cutting the SOS out of the ballot title challenge process, the legislature removes the right of due process from the people.

Please oppose SB229A!

Thank you,

Janice Dysinger  
Gresham, OR