

Feb 24, 2017

Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Samantha Koopman OR

Dear Committee Assistant for the House Committee on Rules Koopman,

My name is Abigail Vonderheide, and I'm a voter in Portland, Oregon.

I'm writing to you to urge your support for House Bill 2578, which would allow candidates that agree not to take large campaign contributions to have small-dollar contributions matched.

It is incredibly difficult to raise enough money to run a successful political campaign today. Most politicians compensate for this by taking large-dollar donations from corporations and the ultra-wealthy. These donations, however, often influence their decision-making; even the most neutral party will see things differently if their time is spent primarily at fundraisers with the wealthy, rather than speaking to everyday American people. Many politicians don't truly understand the plights facing Americans because they simply don't see them.

Small-dollar donation matching would enable candidates to mount a successful political campaign by relying on everyday people like me, who care about the issues but can rarely donate more than \$27 or so at a time. Our voices shouldn't be drowned out simply because we have less money. It would also open up the political spectrum to a much more diverse range of people. Many would-be candidates are great leaders that would serve their community well, but they have a hard time selling themselves to large-dollar donors.

I have seen many wonderful candidates running for office in Oregon, but many of the best have inevitably been unable to fund-raise enough to mount a successful campaign. Out of all the issues preventing politics from being truly accessible to the masses, funding is likely the largest obstacle. House Bill 2578 would help knock down that hurdle and open up the political system in Oregon to new ideas and better representation of the people, rather than large-dollar donors.

Thank you very much for your time. In closing, I would like to urge you once again to support House Bill 2578.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Abigail Vonderheide

██████████
████████████████████
██████████