



TO: The Oregon House Committee on Rules
FR: Basic Rights Oregon
DA: February 8, 2018
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 4076

Chair Williamson and members of the committee,

Basic Rights Oregon urges your support for the passage of HB 4076 and the creation of a small donor elections system in Oregon.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Oregonians experience equality. We believe that our democracy works best when everyone is involved in the conversation, and our communities are equitably represented. That is why we are part of the Voice for All Oregon Coalition and in support of creating a small donor elections system in Oregon.

HB 4076, the Small Donor Elections bill, will ensure every voice matters in Oregon politics by making small donors a more powerful force in elections and reducing the need for candidates to rely exclusively on wealthy donors. Small donor programs around the country have shown they break down the systemic barriers that shut out historically marginalized groups from participating in our democracy by increasing the number of small donors, especially among communities of color and low-income households.

By creating a small donor election program in Oregon we can help break down barriers to running for office, raise up the voices of everyday Oregonians in our elections, and make sure the people and communities that are historically disenfranchised, are centered in our democracy.

We hope that you will join us in support of legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Nancy Haque" and the second is "Amy Herzfeld-Copple".

Nancy Haque & Amy Herzfeld-Copple
Co-Executive Directors