



Oregon School Employees Association

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February 8, 2018

House Committee on Rules
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Williamson and members of the committee:

On behalf of the more than 21,000 education workers represented by the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), I'm pleased to offer our support for House Bill 4076.

OSEA represents workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members perform many of the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers throughout the school day.

OSEA members have set a policy priority of ensuring access to fair and open elections. One of the surest ways to ensure elections are fair and open is empowering communities to support candidates that represent them, regardless of the individual's financial status. Today's election system doesn't foster that sense of empowerment in communities, but establishment of a small-donor matching system is a path to fix that.

The reasonable limits and thresholds set in the bill are a solid foundation for building this new funding system. A candidate who can gather small donations from several hundred members of their community, totaling several thousand dollars, should be confident in their ability to run a competitive campaign. Neither the candidate nor their supporters should face being told that that level of effort and support "isn't good enough." Therefore, **we strongly urge passage of House Bill 4076 to promote access to fair and open elections throughout Oregon.**

Thank you for your attention,

Bob Estabrook
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