



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 13, 2019

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair

Email: hrules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: [HB 2716](#) – Campaign advertisements must include person who paid for them – **Support**

The League of Women Voters, both nationally and at the state level, has been working for comprehensive campaign finance reform since the 1970s.

Oregon requires disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures, but has no limits on them. Since Oregon is one of only a few states that does not limit campaign contributions or spending, except by requiring disclosure, we whole heartedly support the deep disclosures that would be required by HB 2716. This bill would work best if HB 2983 is also implemented.

If Oregon implements some form of campaign contribution limits, this would motivate increased independent expenditures, as happened in the 1996 Oregon election, the last and only time when campaign contribution limits were used. Such expenditures are often used for “hit piece” advertisements and negative campaigning. A candidate could lose control of his/her campaign message.

HB 2716 could inhibit sources of money used for independent expenditures, because such sources usually do not want to be disclosed; they want to remain “dark” and anonymous.

We note that HB 2716 is dependent on the voters passing HJR 13. However, it may not be necessary for this dependency, because a previous law to this effect was negated by a mere attorney general’s option. This issue has never been litigated in Oregon, but the practice is legal in other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President and Campaign Finance Portfolio

Handwritten signature of Becky Gladstone in black ink.

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR Governance Coordinator