

Dear Senate Rules Committee Chair and members:

The clear intent of Senate Bill 761 appears to be to prevent organizations from distributing single petition sheets to their members and to make it more difficult to circulate petitions.

This poorly written legislation appears to greatly increase the risk of fraud, since it would allow an anonymous bad actor to derail an entire campaign's signature-gathering effort, simply by mass distributing single signature sheets in violation of the law. Under the terms of this legislation, the Secretary of State would then be required to discontinue the use of the petition template and reject all single petition sheets.

Under the current system, any fraud that might occur involving single-signature sheets already attaches to the chief petitioner(s). This bill accomplishes no meaningful improvements to that system. Rather, it makes it harder for petitions to qualify.

There are only downsides. Less convenience for individuals who want to sign petitions; greater risk for those circulating them. I urge your committee to reject this proposal, a blatant attack on Oregon's initiative and petition process.

Oregon has a bipartisan tradition of expanding voting rights. Unfortunately, SB 761 moves our state in the wrong direction. The Secretary of State office even opposes this legislation.

Sincerely,



Richard F. Wisner

20 May 2019