

To: House Committee on Rules
Date: May 22, 2019 public hearing
From: William Vollmer, representing the One Small Thing PDX Legislative Task Force
Re: Support for HB2714, HB2716, and HB2983

One Small Thing PDX is a local grassroots organization with a mission of utilizing members' skills and relationships to advance and sustain actions that encourage progressive legislation and support progressive issues. We also support the election of progressive candidates at local, state and federal levels. Our guiding principle is the belief that an individual, regularly doing one small thing, can make a big difference in our country's future.

As part of our efforts, we have organized a Legislative Task Force to gather and disseminate information about bills proposed during the 2019 Legislative Session. I serve as the Task Force's point person for legislation regarding campaign finance reform.

Oregon's system of campaign financing is broken and badly in need of repair. OSTPDX believes that comprehensive campaign finance reform must be built on three pillars:

1. **transparency** (who is donating how much to whom; the Citizens United decision permitting "dark money" has limited the amount of transparency that is possible)
2. **limits/restrictions on donations** (since the Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that such limits would unconstitutionally constrain free speech, we need a constitutional amendment to address that)
3. **using incentives/public funds** to persuade candidates to forgo large donations

The purpose of this memo is to speak out in support of **HB2714, HB2716, and HB2983**, which are being considered as part of today's hearing.

HB2716 is designed to promote better transparency in that it requires that communications made in support of or opposition to candidate or measure to identify whether candidate, petition committee or political committee authorized communication. While we support this, we would like to see the bill further amended so that it requires explicit mention of the individual or organization that did pay for the communication. In particular we urge that language be added similar to that approved by Portland voters in November 2018. Such language is needed since voters can only properly judge the credibility of the messages if they know its source or funders. We understand that **HB2716** will only take effect if the constitutional amendment proposed in **HJR13**, which we also support, is approved by the voters in 2020.

HB2983 also promotes better transparency. It requires covered nonprofits to file a certified list of donors who made aggregate donations above specified amounts to covered nonprofit if the covered nonprofit makes aggregate political expenditures above a specified amount. It also provides some enforcement mechanisms.

HB2714 establishes a task force on campaign finance reform and directs that task force to study and make recommendations on reforming campaign finance in this state. This bill should not be seen as negating the need for the other campaign finance bills currently before the legislature, but rather as a vehicle for determining what further measures are also needed.