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Electronically submitted

House Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony in support of Amendment 7 to SB 224

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Rules Committee:

I represent the Oregon Working Families Party and have practiced election law in Oregon for about a decade. I am writing to express support for Amendment 7 to SB 224.

Amendment 7 is necessary to correct a permanent, unintended consequence of Oregon's Motor Voter system. Currently, the qualification standards for political parties in Oregon are tied to the percentage of registered voters who are registered with the relevant party. In Oregon, Motor Voter registrants are registered as non-affiliated by default, and the overwhelming majority of them remain unaffiliated. Therefore, Motor Voter dilutes the apparent strength of political parties, even though it didn't dilute their actual support among voters.

The increase in unaffiliated voters created by Motor Voter is permanent, so a permanent solution to this problem is needed. Some prior versions of SB 224 created only temporary solutions.

Amendment 7 to SB 224 creates a permanent solution by reducing the percentage of registered voters needed to qualify as a political party by an amount calculated to be approximately equal to the long-term effect of Oregon's Motor Voter system. It is a simple, appropriate correction.

Therefore, Working Families Party respectfully urges that you support SB 224-A7.
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

HIGHET LAW LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Hight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Hight