



June 20, 2019

RE: SB 761 letter of support

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Rules,

On behalf of Causa Oregon, I urge support for SB 761. Causa is Oregon's Latino immigrant rights organization. Founded in 1995, we work to improve the lives of Latino immigrants and their families in Oregon through advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and civic engagement.

SB 761 requires the elector to certify e-sheets whether the petition is printed by the elector or requested by the elector. E-sheets (single-signer, downloadable petition sheets) have been used heavily by anti-choice, anti-immigrant, pro-gun, and other conservative organizations to promote anti-democratic policies. E-sheets are often distributed at events or passive gathering stations where signers aren't given the full text of the measure before signing, and there's no way to verify that signatures on e-sheets distributed in this manner are witnessed the way they have to be when people sign better-regulated, multiple-signature petition sheets.

E-sheets unfortunately have become a loophole that water down the standards and procedures associated with Oregon's initiative and referendum process; they have been used in circumstances ranging from mass mailings to passive gathering stations where the people distributing them don't provide the information about the measure or witness signatures the way they would be required to if they were using multiple-signature petition sheets. These practices were used by the proponents of Measure 105 (2018). The current e-sheet regulations hinder the integrity of Oregon's initiative and referendum process.

Every Oregon voter should have access to the initiative and referendum process—and the information they need to engage in that process in a meaningful and educated manner. Please support the proposed changes to SB 761.

Sincerely,

Roberto Gutierrez  
Policy Director, Causa