

My name is Iris Konstant and I am a social media monitor with Common Cause's Stop Disinformation program, the only nationwide nonpartisan network of grassroots volunteers trained to identify, track and remove disinformation around elections. Volunteers like me submitted more than 46,000 incident reports from July to January.

Oregon has consistently been on the cutting-edge of defending her people. As an individual who grew up in the Willamette Valley (Salem, OR, to be precise), I witnessed the Oregon Legislature pass ground-breaking and innovative bills like HB 2080. Oregon has set a precedent of being a trailblazer; regardless of the issue, the Oregon Legislature has perpetually sought to improve the lives of her people. In supporting HB 2323, Oregon would continue to uphold this legacy of being torchbearers for the rest of the United States.

If the Oregonian Legislature were to fail and let HB 2323 fall to the wayside, our image as forerunners and torchbearers would be lost. We would be signaling to all malign forces that our democratic process is "up for grabs" and that disinformation is now the lay of the land. HB 2323 seeks to combat disinformation in regard to the date of the election, voter registration deadlines, and other key voting information. Previously, as Oregonians we have passed bills [ORS 260.532] prohibiting false information about candidates or measures on the ballot; but when it comes down to brass tacks, we have not protected the sacred act of voting itself.

If we seek to continue to be trailblazers within this democracy, we need to extend the protections imbued within ORS 260.532. Oregon's constituents deserve the same protections afforded to those running for office; henceforth HB 2323 must be enacted into law.