

**To:** House Rules Committee  
**From:** Darren Kloomok, Common Cause  
**Re:** HB 2323, Voter Disinformation  
**Date:** March 4, 2021

Good afternoon: Thank you for allowing me to testify today.~~inviting this testimony.~~  
My name is Darren Kloomok. I was the Common Cause Volunteer Captain for the Pacific-West for Twitter in the weeks starting before November 3 and running up to the Inauguration. The Common Cause Stop Disinformation program was the only nationwide nonpartisan network of grassroots volunteers that worked to identify, track and remove disinformation around elections. Volunteers like me submitted more than 46,000 incident reports on disinformation, including some that I will discuss. Thank you for inviting this testimony.

### **Common Cause**

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are over one million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

### **HB 2323**

Thank you for taking testimony from Common Cause as you consider H2323 to prohibit the knowing spread of disinformation about the process and manner of voting. As a social media monitor, we saw many examples of this sort of disinformation, and the impact it had on voters.

### **Common Cause supports HB 2323**

I respectfully offer these comments:

- As is generally known, disinformation has become a clear and present threat in many areas of our lives. In a time when many voters get much of their information about how to vote from their friends and neighbors, stopping disinformation about voting and elections is absolutely critical.
- Oregon has already prohibited false information about candidates or measures on the ballot; but has thus far failed to protect the vote itself. Oregon's constituents deserve the same protections afforded to those running for office they deserve to get accurate information about how, where, and when to vote.
- In my work with Common Cause I saw how fast lies spread on social media. We followed accounts that had upwards of 1 million followers, which had posts that were retweeted hundreds of times to thousands more followers. We strove to have disinformation corrected, or taken down, but, as has been said: a lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth puts on its shoes. We need disincentives that will discourage people from posting disinformation in the first place. We believe that HR 2323 will help to accomplish this.

- I would like to add, specifically, that we saw disinformation target Black and brown voters to intentionally sow confusion and suppress voters of color from casting their ballots.
- Finally, I wanted to direct your attention below. I have included four of social media posts, all of which had significant virality and spread. These posts were found by volunteer monitors like me. These all contained lies about the voting process, directed at voters in both parties. While these posts may be perceived as jokes, there is no doubt they caused confusion for many voters, leading to some folks missing the election, and being suppressed from the vote. Oregon voters were exposed to disinformation during this election cycle, including posts like these.



Donald J Trump

3 hours ago

Trump wants to delay  
the election  
but libtards won't  
let him!  
Show your support  
for Trump by boycotting  
the election & staying  
home on Nov 3rd!

# TRUMP

KEEP AMERICA GREAT



1.4K



76



468



808 ROCK OUT NOW

@lilaaron911



hey guys just a reminder that in order to keep the lines at the polling stations shorter theyre having democrats vote today and republicans vote tomorrow!!! rt to spread awareness!!!!!!

3:03 PM · Nov 3, 2020



1.1K



330 people are Tweeting about this



**thebradfordfile**™ @thebradfordfile · Oct 30, 2020



Democrats have spent six months scaring their voters out of leaving their homes--and are suddenly panicking they won't on Tuesday.

I love it.



**Samantha Frederick**

@kymama75

Aren't Dems supposed to go in-person vote on November 4? 😊

9:58 PM · Oct 30, 2020



35



See Samantha Frederick's other Tweets



**MARK SIMONE** ✓

@MarkSimoneNY



Dr. Fauci now says in person voting is safe. Safe in person voting is easy: Extend Election Day to two days. People with last names A-M vote on Tuesday. Those with N-Z last names vote on Wednesday. It allows social distancing and reduces lines. #MailInVoting #trump

8:18 PM · Aug 16, 2020



552



See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

**Thank you again for considering this testimony. We urge your support for this bill.**