Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazen and Holvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Isa Peña and I am the Interim Executive Director of Causa, Oregon's immigrant rights organization and I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 2680 -1 Amendment.

Causa has a long history of advocating both at the ballot and in the legislature for policies that honor the contributions of middle and working class Oregonians. Because of this, we are in support of the -1 amendment and believe it is a step in the right direction and values the contribution and participation of working people in our elections process. We also believe in increasing access for BIPOC communities and this amendment would increase the ability for BIPOC folks to participate in the election process.

We see small donor PACs as a way for Oregonians who hold similar values to come together and let their voices be heard in a way that empowers the middle and working class. We believe that everyday Oregonians should be able to hold elected officials accountable and can do that through values based organizing to use their collective power to make political change in a way that is fundamentally different from the power that one large corporate or wealthy donor could provide.

Similarly we support public financing, which has been shown to increase participation and success of BIPOC candidates across the country.

As an organization who is gearing up to create a 501(c)4, we believe that Campaign Finance Reform is a healthy next step for Oregon. However, we want to ensure that we do it in a way that increases participation in order to build stronger communities. Simultaneously, we believe in worker justice and want to ensure that candidates are able to raise enough financial resources to adequately compensate campaign staff and should allow for competitive wages to attract talent.

For these reasons, we are supportive of the -1 amendment to House Bill 2680, Campaign Finance Reform.

Isaura L Peña

Isa Peña
Interim Executive Director
Causa Oregon