

Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

My name is Courtney Silveria. I am a fourth year at the University of Oregon majoring in Political Science and a transplant from California. I love Oregon and plan on living here the rest of my life if feasible. I love Oregon for many reasons, but mostly for the people who live here. Oregon is filled with the kindest, most neighborly citizens who genuinely care for others, and it is why they deserve to be more than just an after thought when it comes to the presidential primaries. A state filled with people as passionate about politics and helping their community as Oregon should be given the opportunity to have their voices heard by moving the presidential primary elections from May to Super Tuesday. This form of voting reform is bipartisan and beneficial to all parties. In the current political climate, passing bipartisan legislation that encourage more voter participation on all sides, would help to bridge the divides in our state. Moving the presidential primary date to Super Tuesday in Oregon will undoubtedly increase voter turn-out. To deny legislation that would improve voter turnout is to deny a truly democratic system. Oregon has led the way in voting methods with our robust mail in voting system. I believe our presidential primary voting turn-out would have an enthusiastic level of participation because of this. Currently, Oregonians are being left out of a pivotal aspect of choosing presidential candidates. By the time Oregon is eligible to cast their votes in May, the decision has been made as to who will lead the presidential ticket for each party. This greatly discourages many from casting votes in Oregon at all. If we can increase democratic participation, we should always choose that path even if it does not change the outcome as to who would win the nomination of the party. It is important to uplift voter participation and not align ourselves as a state that discourages participation. It is the Oregonian way to participate in our communities and there is no easier way to do this than to cast

our vote for representation. Please strongly consider allowing SB 785 to be contemplated and voted on so that we can be a state that takes action to preserve democracy rather than suppress it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Courtney Silveria