

The Office of

Representative Wlnsvey E. Campos

Oregon House District 28

TESTIMONY

REGARDING HB 2745: VOTER ACCESS ACT

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and members of committee:

For the record, my name is WLnsvey Campos, my pronouns are she/her, and I am the State Representative for District 28, which covers Beaverton and Aloha and sits on the traditional lands of the Atfalati, Cowlitz, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Kalapuya peoples.

The Voter Access Act is a key step in ensuring that Oregon's electoral system is more democratic and inclusive of our many communities while still reinforcing and supporting individual agency and autonomy. When passed, HB 2745 would allow all qualified voters registering to vote the option to provide their preferred language, race and ethnicity, which will become public record and be included in voter lists.

The collection of this demographic data is invaluable and can be used to ensure that communities are provided with information relevant to their concerns and are more integrated in the political conversations in Oregon. It will also allow the state and organizations providing invaluable resources to many of the unseen communities of Oregon to have their work better centered in the experiences of the populations they seek to serve by understanding what these populations actually look like.

Further, this bill does an excellent job of pairing with its companion bill, HB 3021 which requires that each county's voter pamphlet statement brochure be provided in the top five languages spoken in that county.

HB 2745 does not have Oregon setting a new standard for this demographic data collection; race, ethnicity and language data collection is collected by nearly a dozen other states across the country. Building, reinforcing and encouraging a system that values equity, diversity and inclusion is a cornerstone what Oregon's democracy should and can be.

I urge you to support both of these incredible bills before you today. Colleagues, please vote aye on HB 2745 and send it to the house floor.

With gratitude,

Representative Wlnsvey E. Campos