



May 12, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

We at Basic Rights Oregon are writing to share our support for HB 2680 with the -1 amendments and meaningful campaign finance reform. Basic Rights Oregon is a 501c(4) LGBTQ advocacy organization that is dedicated to ensuring lived equality for all Oregonians. We work proactively to address the needs of our community through policy advocacy, community engagement, building political power, and providing education.

Since our founding in 1996, BRO has been deeply engaged in electoral politics in Oregon. Each cycle we engage voters, providing education and encouraging turnout to ensure that the voices of our community members are heard. Years ago we also established a political action committee, the Equality PAC, to help turn the tide for LGBTQ equality in our state. Over time we have seen first hand the influence of big money in politics as more mega-donors write million dollar checks, campaigns become more expensive, and the meaning of small dollar contributions of everyday, working Oregonians is often lost. It is clear that our state is in need of campaign finance reform.

We believe that HB 2680 if amended is the right policy approach for Oregon because it not only addresses what we want to see less of (money in politics), but also what we want to see more of: voter engagement, grassroots organizing, and pathways to a more reflective democracy.

Oregon is fortunate to have a number of BIPOC-led emerging c4 organizations that advocate on behalf of communities who have been historically excluded from our democracy and work to increase those communities' civic participation. These often small, but dedicated, organizations are helping Oregon to achieve a more reflective and responsive democracy. The -1 amendments to HB 2680 take

into consideration the structure and activities of these c4s to ensure they can continue to participate in elections in a meaningful way.

HB 2680 strikes the right balance bringing more transparency and accountability to our electoral system, while creating new pathways for engagement through things like small donor PACs and public financing.

We would like to thank Representative Rayfield for engaging a broad range of stakeholders in the formation of HB 2680 and its amendments including c4 organizations and for thoughtfully approaching this policy that will shape Oregon's political landscape for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.