



Good morning Chair Smith Warner and members of the Committee. My name is Neal Ubriani. I am the Policy and Research Director for the Center for Secure and Modern Elections and I am here in support of House Bill 4133. CSME is a national nonpartisan campaign to support states in making technology upgrades to ensure that elections are secure, accessible, and efficient.

HB 4133 upgrades Oregon's Online Voter Registration system (OVR) so that all eligible citizens can register to vote online. This proposal will save money, increase the accuracy and security of voter registration, and improve access.

Oregon's OVR system is currently limited to people who have an Oregon DMV-issued ID. This is for two reasons. First, because people cannot upload a signature to Oregon's OVR system, the signature from the person's driver's license record is used as their registration signature. Second, the person's DMV-issued ID number is used as an identity check against DMV records.

This restriction leaves the 10% of Oregonians who lack a DMV-issued ID unable to register online. People without a driver's license are generally very young, very old, or lower-income. Instead of a secure electronic method for registration, these people are forced to print and fill-out paper registration forms and then submit them by mail and in-person. Clerks must then process these handwritten forms, entering the person's information by hand, an inefficient process that increases the risk of error. On these paper forms, people without DMV-issued IDs provide a signature and the last four digits of their social security number (SSN4), with their SSN4 verified against a federal database. There were 200,000 paper registration forms submitted in Oregon for the 2020 election, generating labor costs of approximately \$900,000 in processing and data entry.

Recognizing that expanding access to electronic registration increases efficiency and security, reduces the risk of error, and promotes equity, eight states have upgraded to what is known as OVR+. In an OVR+ system, people without a DMV-issued ID can register online, avoiding the need for a handwritten paper form. These people provide their SSN4 as proof of identity, and just as with paper forms, this number is verified against a federal database. To provide a signature, people can upload a photograph of their signature to the OVR website. Since clerks scan signatures from paper forms, this produces a similarly high-quality signature to a paper form.

OVR+ has passed in a diverse range of states, from Kentucky to Vermont. Colorado, Delaware, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, and New Jersey have also adopted it. Oregon can join these eight states at the forefront of inclusion, efficiency, and security, and reduce inconvenient paper forms. HB 4133 also has an effective date at the end of 2025, providing ample time for implementation.

HB 4133 also gives the Secretary of State the option to create what's known as an application programming interface (API) for OVR. Even with OVR+, third-party registration drives still have an incentive to submit paper registration forms. These paper forms let groups track how many people they have registered and retain telephone numbers for follow-up and get-out-the-vote. Groups cannot collect this information if they simply re-direct people to the OVR website.

An API corrects these incentives. With an API, groups that meet security protocols can submit registration forms securely and electronically to the Secretary of State, while still tracking how



many people they've registered and retaining telephone numbers. The API gives these groups an incentive to conduct their registration activities fully electronically, eliminating thousands of paper forms and giving all voters the full benefit of OVR+. APIs or similar systems are used in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Virginia, and Washington, and are used for registration drives by a diverse range of groups, from the League of Women Voters to the National Rifle Association.

HB 4133 will increase the accessibility, security, and accuracy of voter registration in Oregon, and save the state and its counties significant time and money during upcoming election cycles. I urge you to support this bill, and am happy to answer any questions you might have.