STATEMENT IN <u>SUPPORT</u> OF HB 4044
MINOR PARTY THRESHOLD

To: House Committee on Rules
From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
Date: February 8th, 2022

Chair Smith-Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4044.

UFCW Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. Our members come from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing, and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

In Oregon, Minor Parties have two ways to maintain their minor party status, running a statewide candidate or maintaining a minimum statewide voter registration. The Oregon Working Families Party believes that every party has the right to maintain their autonomy and run statewide candidates that represent their values when they see fit, not simply because they must do so in order to maintain their party status.

HB 4044 addresses unintended consequences that arose due to the passage of Motor Voter in 2015. Motor Voter has been a great success, adding hundreds of thousands of eligible voters to the voter rolls, creating a more responsive and representative system. In doing so the number of voters necessary to maintain minor party status has grown quickly and is unattainable, this is largely due to the incredible growth of non affiliated voters across the state.

HB 4044 will adjust the threshold requirement from one-half to one-quarter of one percent accounting for the influx in automatically registered voters and ensure that minor parties are not negatively impacted by the subsequent growth of non affiliated voters.

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • ufcw555.org

UNION 555 LABEL

Minor Parties play an important role for hundreds of thousands of voters across our state. HB 4044 ensures an equitable and attainable number of registered voters can be met.

I urge your support for HB 4044.

Thank you,

Madison Walters
Political Liaison
UFCW Local 555

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