

21 February 2022

To: Senate Committee on Rules

Dear Chair Senator Wagner, Vice-Chair Senator Knopp and members of the Committee:

House Bill 4133

In 2015, House Bill 2177, our *Motor Voter Act*, passed by only a slim majority. It required those obtaining a driver's license or ID card to be automatically registered to vote.

In 2019 Senate Bill 861 (which passed hardly overwhelmingly) required return ballot postage be paid by tax payers.

Here we are all the way to 2022 and House Bill 4133 proposes yet another legislative effort of dubious value with the aim of increasing voter participation.

Sponsors of this bill apparently believe that it is such an onerous task to register to vote that every bump in the road must be smoothed out? Are not Oregonians capable of doing anything for themselves?

If voting is seen as a civic responsibility, which it certainly is, why shouldn't it require some actual effort on the part of the voter? If voting, and hence, registering to vote is seen as a civic duty then keep in mind that duty implies *a task or chore that a person is expected to perform*.

And another thing, House Bill 4133 ostensibly removes some perceived barrier to voting, yet on the other hand, Senate Bill 1526, currently before your Committee, aims to limit voter participation. Which message is being sent here? Is it yes, we want voter participation – *but only so much*?

Have the sponsors considered from where jury members are drawn? If an Oregon citizen does not have the gumption to fulfill the civic responsibility, the duty, to register to vote, what makes the sponsors think they will take the responsibility to be a member of a jury any more seriously?

It is a shame such things as what may be called a civic duty are considered so burdensome, so emotionally and physically taxing on the average Oregonian that means must be legislated to save them from expending nearly any effort whatsoever to participate in our form of government.

HB 4133 is not a good idea. And the recent (February 16th) vote of 33 – 23 indicates it is not viewed as a good idea by a significant portion of House representatives.

Sincerely,


Richard Wisner