

To: Senate Rules Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Automatic Voter Registration (HB 2107A)
Date: June 20, 2023

Common Cause

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are 1.5 million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

HB 2107 – To Extend Automatic Voter Registration

Oregon’s Automatic Voter Registration creates a convenient, secure way for more Oregonians to register to vote. Indeed, the program has been so successful that twenty-one other states have already followed Oregon’s lead, passing similar programs.

Modernizing Oregon’s voter registration creates efficiencies for both voters and government. In this increasingly busy and mobile world, it can be burdensome to keep up with all the many bureaucratic matters of our lives. But there’s no reason to make voting more cumbersome than necessary, especially in a country that prides itself on innovation and working smarter. Moreover, by integrating systems and information between government agencies, we save time and minimize human error, helping to keep government as efficient as possible.

But while Oregon’s “Motor Voter” program helps tens of thousands of eligible voters each year – both to register and to keep their registration accurately up-dated – not everyone interacts with the DMV. That’s why it makes sense to build on this success, by gradually extending Motor Voter to other government agencies that engage with large numbers of unregistered voters and that are structured to securely collect all the necessary information. Oregon’s Health Authority is the obvious next agency.

Common Cause urges your yes vote for HB 2107.