



RE: Support Automatic Voter Registration Expansion, HB 2107

House Committee on Rules

February 14, 2023

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

My name is Marchel Marcos and I am the Political Director at APANO. APANO is a culturally specific organization that unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work. I'm here today to support Automatic Voter Registration Expansion in Oregon, HB 2107, an act to expand AVR to Medicaid because despite historic investments into AVR and online voter registration (OVR), over 350,000 eligible Oregonians are still not yet registered to vote. And these are eligible but unregistered Oregonians that are not being reached through AVR or OVR systems are also the communities and populations that are historically underrepresented in our democracy: young people, people with disabilities, naturalized U.S citizens, and low-income people.

Despite Oregon's success with DMV-based AVR, a significant number of eligible voters in the state are unregistered to vote or are registered under an old address or name. Expanding AVR to Medicaid offices will close registration gaps, improve the security and accuracy of the voter file, and continue to protect non-citizens.

Expanding AVR systems to Medicaid does not change eligibility for requirements. It simply modernizes and streamlines the voter registration process for already eligible voters.

Oregon has always been a leader in election modernization, security, and voter registration. However, other states, namely Colorado and Nevada, are surpassing Oregon as they have already authorized AVR expansion to Medicaid.

As a representative of **APANO**, please support the passage of HB 2107.

Thank you,

Marchel Marcos (She/Her)
Political Director
APANO