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HB 2107- Pilot Project to Register Persons Leaving Snake River Correctional Institution-Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

This bill is simple. The Oregon Health Authority establishes identity and citizenship as those who have been incarcerated leave the correctional facility. This bill would provide a pilot project at the Snake River Institution to register those folks by the OHA transmitting information to the elections division of the Secretary of State. There would be the same provision of a follow-up post card to verify the person wishes to continue to be registered to vote.

This is the same provision of the Oregon Motor Voter.

This would be allowed under Federal law passed in the 1990's.

In 1993, Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The NVRA pioneered a new way to register to vote in America: It required most states to provide citizens with an opportunity to register to vote when applying for or renewing a driver's license at a department of motor vehicles (DMV) or other designated state agencies. Because of the requirement for DMVs to participate in voter registration, the NVRA is often referred to as "motor voter."

Some states apply the same automated processes to other state-designated agencies. Under Section 7 of the NVRA, **any state office that provides public assistance or operates state-funded programs that serve individuals with disabilities must offer opportunities to register to vote.** The law also requires states to designate additional offices providing voter registration services.¹ [bolding added]

Please support this pilot project for registering voters.

Mary Nikas

Mary Nikas
Chair, Marion County Democratic Central Committee

¹National Conference of State Legislatures website. Elections