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February 13, 2023

HB 2585- Ending Motor Voter Registration-Oppose

To: Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

In 2015 the Oregon Legislature passed the Oregon Motor Voter law and in 2016 became the first state in the nation to implement the law. Now 22 states have some form of motor voter.¹

Since the passage of motor voter, Oregon has consistently had one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation. In fact, in the 2022 General election, Oregon had the highest voter turnout in the nation. Motor voter is working. The verification of citizenship is done by DMV. The newly registered voter is sent a card to opt out of registration if they so choose.

There seems no reason 7 years after implementation to do away with this easy and cost effective way to register voters. As the records are transferred to the election division there is less staff time and more accuracy in the information.

Again, Oregon was a leader. We have people voting. Why change a system that is working?

Mary Nikas

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Chair, Marion County Democratic Central Committee

¹National Conference of State Legislatures website. Elections