



To: Representative Fahey, Chair
Representative Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair
Representative Kropf, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Rules
From: Lindsey Scholten, Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Date: February 14, 2023

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

For the record my name is Lindsey Scholten and I am the deputy director for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2107, which would expand automatic voter registration (AVR) to Medicaid.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters or “OLCV” is a nonpartisan organization with thousands of members across the state. For 50 years, OLCV has worked to ensure our elected leaders and our state’s environmental policies represent and reflect the strong environmental values held by the people of Oregon.

OLCV strongly supports laws that help create a more inclusive democracy and increase voter access. We are proud to say that Oregon has long been on the forefront of increasing access to the ballot, including being the first state to pass automatic voter registration. Because of this leadership, our state has consistently had some of the highest turnout of eligible voters in the country. However, other states, namely Colorado and Nevada, are surpassing Oregon as they have already authorized AVR expansion to Medicaid.

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.

The estimated 350,000 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. Expanding AVR systems to Medicaid is the most efficient and secure way to register eligible voters, specifically those who come from historically underrepresented populations.

On behalf of OLCV, I ask for your support of HB 2107 to continue Oregon’s leadership on access to the ballot and help create a more inclusive democracy. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony on this critical issue.

Lindsey Scholten
Deputy Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters