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Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director for Secretary of State Shemia Fagan. I am submitting the following written testimony to provide information on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 53](#). We do not have a position on the bill.

Current Law

Under [ORS 254.476](#), election workers are excluded from eligibility to serve as election workers in the processes of opening envelopes, handling ballots, prepare ballots for counting and counting ballots or verifying signatures if they have any of the following relations to a candidate on the ballot: spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, stepparent or stepchild and they may not be employed or may not serve as a volunteer.

Senate Bill 53

SB 53 would expand the definition of family member, as noted above, to include 'members of household' in the exclusion to serve as an election worker. The Secretary of State must adopt by rule the personnel authorized to verify signatures to follow the same limitations under [ORS 254.476](#), which establishes who is eligible to be employed as election workers and [ORS 244.020](#) which establishes the definition of 'Member of Household' to be 'any person who resides with the public official or candidate'.

Additionally, county clerks will need to establish this by verifying residence address of the potential election worker ensuring it does not match the address of a candidate for election.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Ventura
Legislative Director

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