

Submitter: Paxton Rothwell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese Iverson and Members of the Committee,

I fully support HB 2004. Ranked Choice Voting will give Oregonians more choice over who their elected officials are. This will lead to a more representative democracy in the State and hopefully in the Country as well. I am disheartened by the state of politics today. The "first-past-the-post" way of voting makes voters have to choose the candidate they identify with that is most likely to win. Even when a candidate aligns more with a voter's preferences, if they aren't a part of a major political party, or have major financial backing, it's unlikely they will get a vote. Our current system is anti-democratic. Just because that's the way we've been doing things doesn't mean it's the best way to be doing things.

I know I want my children to believe in government. I want them to see that the government can govern for everybody, not just the moneyed interests who lobby, push political ads, and back controversial candidates. Ranked Choice Voting won't get our State all the way to that future, but it's a great first step. Please support this bill.

-Paxton Rothwell, NE Portland