

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure: HB4031

Honorable Members of the House Committee On Revenue,

I write to you today to extend my unwavering support for HB4031, a visionary piece of legislation that promises to usher in a new era of transparency, accountability, and democratic engagement within our beloved Oregon. This bill, with its noble objective of mandating the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) to conduct a comprehensive study on public records and report its findings, is a beacon of hope for those of us yearning for an open government.

Transparency is the bedrock of a truly participatory democracy. By requiring the PRAC to delve into the state of public records and present its discoveries, HB4031 is setting the stage for a future where government actions are no longer shrouded in mystery. This initiative is not just about improving access to information; it's about empowering every citizen with the tools they need to engage critically and constructively with their government.

Imagine a society where public records are easily accessible, where every citizen can hold their leaders accountable, and where trust between the government and its people is not just an ideal but a reality. This bill paves the way for such a society. It stands as a testament to our collective commitment to ensuring that our government remains of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Moreover, the directive for the PRAC to submit its findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by no later than September 15, 2026, is a clear indication of our dedication to not just identifying challenges but also implementing solutions. It acknowledges that the path to transparency is ongoing and requires continuous effort and vigilance.

In essence, HB4031 is more than just a legislative proposal; it is a declaration of our shared values and aspirations. It reflects our belief in the power of information as a catalyst for social progress and our commitment to building a more equitable and just Oregon.

I urge you, esteemed members of the House Committee On Revenue, to support HB4031. Let us take this significant step towards fostering a culture of openness and accountability. Let us work together to ensure that our government is as accessible and responsive as the people it serves deserve. Your support for this bill is not just an investment in the mechanics of governance but in the very soul of our democracy.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this critical issue.