



To: House Committee on Rules
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Support for HB 4024

Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Education Association believes that serious reforms are needed to Oregon's campaign financing systems. These reforms, however, need to be thoughtful and carefully created to ensure they meet clear goals. For OEA, the key principles behind campaign finance reform should be:

- **Limits** that are meaningful, and don't allow a single entity to pour millions into a race; but also, not so stringent that candidates can no longer control the narrative of their campaign.
- **Transparency** which allows people to clearly see who the people are that are spending big amounts of money to influence elections.
- **Penalties** that incentivize people to play by the rules, but not so gratuitous as to completely dissuade political participation.
- Lastly, OEA believes that our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and any type of campaign finance reform needs to **incentivize grassroots democracy** rather than stifle it.

To this end, OEA supported Initiative Petition 42. IP 42 clearly met all these goals, and most importantly it included the single biggest thing that would truly open our democracy to anyone who wished to participate: voter owned elections, or public financing.

However, with other campaign finance reforms heading to the ballot, we are not interested in a costly ballot measure fight. Rather, OEA would like to find a compromise, one that adheres to the principles above, but builds a larger coalition – one that can hopefully include everyone involved in the conversation.

HB 4024 is that compromise. In comparison to IP 42:

- The limits are higher for individuals and businesses, and lower for Small Donor Committees; but it keeps the critical incentive for SDCs to keep organizing around shared values.
- Transparency is streamlined in a way that people can understand and follow. In fact, it is improved in many ways from IP 42 by the updates that will be made to the Secretary of States' systems and disclosure requirements.



The only critical democracy reform that HB 4024 misses is public financing. And yet, understanding that compromise is important if we are to save the state from a costly ballot measure fight, OEA supports HB 4024 and urges its passage.