



February 23, 2024

To: Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, Members of the House Committee On Rules

From: Russell Lum, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: **Support for House Bill 4024-3**

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 4024-3 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and health care professionals across Oregon. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, county health departments, home health care, and more.

ONA joins community organizations, unions, and many other stakeholders in support of HB 4024-3. We have been supporters of Initiative Petition 42. While we appreciate IP 42's comprehensive, deliberate, slowly-crafted approach to the issue of campaign finance reform, we recognize the value of compromise for a legislative solution this session. We further know that the more voices invested in finding a solution, the better it will serve all Oregonians — and all Oregonians need limits on political spending, promptly.

It is long past time to rein in the cost of Oregon elections and set rules of the road which help our elections reflect democratic power, voter education and knowledge, and citizen-enacted accountability.

HB 4024-3 is the compromise we endorse because:

- It ends the permissibility of individual millionaires and billionaires to give large sums of money to candidates, a phenomenon that has the effect of tilting Oregon policy results against everyday people because of elites asserting disproportionate power.
- It respects Oregonians' fundamental right to know who is behind political spending, with novel and powerful transparency and disclosure requirements.
- It initiates a penalty structure for campaign finance law violations which keeps people playing by the rules but does not create an overly onerous and risky litigative approach to redress.
- It permits and empowers organizations which have a membership — of many kinds but notably including groups too often marginalized in our system, including communities of color — to contribute to elections meaningfully.
- Perhaps most importantly, it incentivizes organizing. Groups that have thousands of Oregonians willfully engaged through common values in electoral outcomes are doing the work of driving and surfacing democratic interest. ONA sees ourselves in this vein. We value and put into play our members' interest — a responsibility we do not take lightly and will expand, where we can grow engaged, involved ranks of nurses and health care workers. The ability to use small donor committee dollars, with limits, is paramount.

Please partner with advocates dedicated to a campaign finance solution now in the form of HB 4024.

Sincerely,

Russell Lum

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ONA is an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, AFT and AFL-CIO