

Submitter: Kathleen Jeskey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4024

My name is Kathleen Jeskey. I am a retired teacher living in Oregon City and I support this bill as a step forward towards real campaign finance reform in Oregon.

Special moneyed interests have had an outsized influence on politics in our state for far too long. Voters need to know who is funding campaigns because this helps them understand the why of that funding. While I understand some of the objections to parts of this bill, I believe this bill would be a good start. I believe we need the full disclosure of where donations come from and improvements in ORESTAR that would help people understand the whys of those donations.

While I do believe that this bill could be improved by adopting a public finance system, similar to what is addressed in IP 42, I don't think that moving this bill forward precludes adopting such an amendment, nor does it preclude IP 42 moving forward should this bill pass and fail to be amended in such a fashion. Either way, the bill is a good start towards what we need in Oregon and in the nation as a whole: less control by money and more control by human beings.

Everyone has a right to participate in our government at the same level, regardless of their financial status and in spite of the errant ruling of our Supreme Court, corporations are NOT people and money is NOT speech. Oregon can be out front with that statement and I hope that we will be.

I urge you to pass this bill as a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.