



TO: House Committee on Rules

DA: February 23, 2024

RE: Basic Rights Oregon Support for HB 4024

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf and Members of the Committee,

We at Basic Rights Oregon are writing to share our support for HB 4024 and meaningful campaign finance reform. Basic Rights Oregon is a 501c(4) LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that is dedicated to ensuring lived equality for all Oregonians. We work proactively to address the needs of our community through policy advocacy, community engagement, building political power, and providing education.

Since our founding in 1996, BRO has been deeply engaged in electoral politics in Oregon. Each cycle we engage voters, providing education and encouraging turnout to ensure that the voices of our community members are heard. Years ago we also established a political action committee, to help turn the tide for LGBTQ+ equality in our state. Over time we have seen first hand the influence of big money in politics as more mega-donors write million dollar checks, campaigns become more expensive, and the meaning of small dollar contributions of everyday, working Oregonians is often lost. It is clear that our state is in need of campaign finance reform.

We believe that HB 4024 is the right policy approach for Oregon because it will: limit campaign contributions, protect the voices of trusted community organizations, working people, people of color, and other historically marginalized communities, and get closer to a government that reflects our state and is accountable to us all.

Oregon is fortunate to have a number of BIPOC-led emerging c4 organizations that advocate on behalf of communities who have been historically excluded from our democracy and work to increase those communities' civic participation. These often small, but dedicated, organizations are helping Oregon to achieve a more reflective and responsive democracy. HB 4024 recognizes the important role of community-based organizations participating in elections, while also placing a reasonable cap on their contributions so as to not create loopholes that can be exploited by players on any side of the political spectrum.

We are grateful to the legislature for taking up this important matter. Campaign finance reform requires a thoughtful approach and we believe Oregonians will be best served by a deliberative effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration.