My name is Sam Evans, I'm a 20 year old college student and Eagle Scout from Portland, Oregon who does not feel represented by either the Democrats or Republicans. I am majoring in Economics & Finance at George Washington University and I am registered to vote in Oregon. I support open primaries in Oregon because I feel that voters like myself should not have to register with a party to vote in a publicly-funded election.

In past elections, I have changed my party registration in order to vote for a particular candidate who I liked. As a result, instead of voting for candidates of the same party in down-ballot races who I did not like, I chose to abstain from voting in those races altogether. Under an open primary system, I would be afforded the ability to vote for all of my preferred candidates, regardless of party affiliation.

Furthermore, my situation is not unique. Young voters like myself tend to be nonaffiliated at higher rates than the overall voting population. For example, my best friend is registered to vote but is not affiliated with a party, and while he voted in the most recent general election he was not able to vote in the primaries. I support open primaries in Oregon because all registered voters, including young voters, should have a more representative voice in electing our leaders.