

Submitter: Nicole Kalk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2250

I am writing to oppose Oregon House Bill 2250, which proposes changes to how census data is used for redistricting purposes. This bill, if passed, would have significant implications for the integrity of the democratic process and the principle of fair representation.

Proponents of this bill argue that it aims to address certain inequities, but several concerns arise:

- **Census Integrity:** The U.S. Census counts where people reside on Census Day. Relocating incarcerated individuals for redistricting purposes contradicts the established principles of the census and could influence population data.
- **Risk of Gerrymandering:** Allowing selective relocation of a specific population group may enable political manipulation of district boundaries, impacting the fairness of the redistricting process.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Determining and verifying the last known addresses of all incarcerated individuals is complex and may lead to inaccuracies, as some individuals may not have had fixed addresses prior to incarceration.
- **Equal Representation:** Counting incarcerated individuals in districts where they cannot vote may affect the voting power of residents in those districts.
- **Federal Standards:** This bill could create discrepancies between state and federal population counts, potentially complicating government processes and funding allocations.