Submitter:	Michaela Hammerson
On Behalf Of:	EndVBM.com
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am Michaela Hammerson, Chief Petitioner for EndVBM, a grassroots initiative dedicated to restoring integrity and transparency to Oregon's elections. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB 3166, a bill that proposes open primaries, a measure that undermines the foundational role of political parties and exposes our electoral process to increased manipulation. Furthermore, this legislation disregards the recent rejection of similar election changes by Oregon voters, constituting an overreach by this body against the constituents who elected you.

Open primaries, as proposed in HB 3166, strip political parties of their ability to select candidates who represent their values and priorities. By allowing all voters—regardless of party affiliation—to participate in choosing party nominees, this system dilutes the influence of committed party members and effectively dismantles a key mechanism of democratic representation. Political parties exist to organize and advocate for distinct visions of governance; open primaries erode that purpose, turning nominations into a free-for-all where ideological clarity is lost.

Worse still, open primaries invite manipulation. When anyone can vote in a party's primary, regardless of their allegiance, the door is opened to strategic voting by outside actors—voters or groups who may intentionally select weaker or less representative candidates to skew the general election in their favor. This vulnerability undermines the integrity of the process and risks producing nominees who do not reflect the will of a party's base. Oregon's elections are already strained by questions of trust; HB 3166 would only deepen those concerns by introducing new avenues for interference.

Oregonians made their stance on election reforms clear in November 2024, when they rejected Measure 117 by a wide margin. That vote signaled a desire to preserve a system that respects voter intent and party sovereignty, not to overhaul it with untested and risky changes. Yet HB 3166 presses forward, ignoring this mandate. This is not representation—it is an abuse of legislative power, overriding the expressed will of the people you are sworn to serve.
Rather than pursuing measures like open primaries that weaken our electoral framework, I urge you to address a more pressing issue: the vulnerabilities of Oregon's vote-by-mail (VBM) system. At EndVBM, we advocate for ending VBM to eliminate risks such as lack of oversight, potential coercion, and delays in ballot verification. A return to secure, in-person voting would restore confidence in our

elections. I invite you to learn more about this critical reform at endvbm.com and to join us in supporting #EndVBM—a cause that prioritizes transparency and trust over experimental overhauls.

In closing, I respectfully request that you reject HB 3166. Honor the will of Oregon voters, protect the role of parties in our democracy, and safeguard our elections from manipulation. Instead, direct your efforts toward meaningful reform by supporting #EndVBM.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michaela Hammerson
Chief Petitioner, EndVBM