

Submitter: Darcy Kramer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686

When I was a kid, I had a job delivering the Oregon Daily Journal to subscribers in my neighborhood. When the Journal was absorbed by the Oregonian, I was out of a job. My father, Bud Kramer, said that the loss of the job was unfortunate, but I should be more concerned about the loss of journalists' voices and a newspaper that covered news differently than the Oregonian. He said that the only way our democracy works is if people have multiple sources for news with different perspectives and rigorous fact-checking.

He was right. I've watched the slow erosion of multiple voices and points of view. I've seen the slow death of fact-checking. And every year, more and more, as the wealthy buy more and more media, the growth of single-issue platforms replace truth with lies. We don't trust the news because it's no longer worthy of trust. Profit matters. Whatever the owner's agenda is matters.

We need more voices in journalism. We need independence from corporate owners. I support SB 686.