

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Holden Eastman. I am a graduate student at the University of Oregon studying Community and Regional Planning, and I am currently the president of the Civic Impact Coalition, a student group focused on civic engagement and public affairs.

On behalf of the Civic Impact Coalition, we strongly support HJR 201 and its goal of increasing voter representation and improving the voting process in Oregon. No resident of the State of Oregon should be denied the right to vote in any primary election based solely on party affiliation or lack thereof.

More than 1.3 million Oregonians are impacted by the lack of open primaries, and 59% of younger voters are independent or unaffiliated. Enfranchising and empowering these voters to vote in the primaries will improve the democratic process.

We urge you to support HJR 201 and its goal of open primaries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.