

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Patrice Roberts, and I live in Salem. I am writing to testify in strong support of SB 1509, which is a good governance bill that seeks to add additional security measures to our election process to ensure that presidential electors in Oregon vote faithfully and in alignment with the public's will as it relates to the President of the United States.

By passing SB 1509, the Oregon Legislative Assembly would be protecting our state's voters, protecting the voice of our state, protecting our presidential electors, and helping protect our nation's democracy by reducing the chances that our presidential elections in 2028 or beyond could be overturned. As we have seen in the last 2 elections, one party in our country is attempting to overturn the will of the voters by use of threats, manipulation and other means to subvert our democratic processes.

Oregon already requires that presidential electors take a pledge to vote faithfully, and the parties themselves have robust processes to select presidential electors.

However, there is no enforcement mechanism that will ensure electors follow through on their pledge. Legislation SB 1509 has been introduced during Oregon's short legislative session to remedy this issue by allowing our Secretary of State to review and enforce elector pledges, invalidating any ballot cast in violation.

In addition, if any presidential elector does cast a ballot faithlessly, this legislation will require that elector to be removed from their position and that they be replaced. These additions reinforce currently existing statute and create better accountability within the process.

I strongly believe it is critical to our democracy that SB1509 is passed out of committee.

Thank you.