

Submitter: Scott Friedman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition  
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

I am writing to express deep concern and frustration with the effort to move SB 1599 outside of the November ballot. The bill's text explicitly placed this measure before voters in November for a reason. Changing course is sneaky, disingenuous, and fundamentally disrespectful to the people of Oregon.

The people are the democracy. Moving this measure away from November is yet another example of one party choosing to ignore the voters when the outcome may not be politically convenient. We wanted this on the November ballot so Oregonians could weigh in directly and, if necessary, vote leaders out and move this state in a better direction.

If leadership truly believes in the policies being pushed, then they should be confident enough to let the people vote on them when turnout is highest and accountability is clearest. Shifting SB 1599 now sends the opposite message, that protecting political power matters more than respecting voters.

Oregonians are paying attention. Actions like this only deepen distrust in government and reinforce the belief that decisions are being made behind closed doors rather than in the open, where democracy belongs.