



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Votes to Increase Elections Transparency

SALEM – This morning, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed [House Bill 2505](#), a step toward ending “dark money” campaign spending in Oregon.

Right now, individuals or groups can disseminate information about a candidate leading up to an election, and as long as their materials do not clearly state support or opposition using specific words like "elect" or "vote for" or "vote against," they don't have to report their spending. HB 2505 is designed to increase transparency by requiring the reporting of communications (of an aggregate \$750 or more) that refer to a candidate within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of a general election.

The bill changes some existing reporting requirements to include selected and targeted communications about candidates that don't necessarily advocate directly for or against the candidate. That means that ads, mailers, billboards, etc. referring to a candidate on the ballot would be considered campaign materials if they're produced during a campaign season.

“Disclosure is one of the most basic forms of campaign finance regulation, and HB 2505 aims to close a loophole in Oregon's campaign disclosure laws,” said Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene).

Rep. Nathanson is a chief sponsor of the bill with Sen. Brian Boquist (R-Dallas).

Oregon seeks to be the third state, joining California and Montana, to have an expanded definition of “communication” under its independent expenditure law.

“This bill will limit the influence of dark money in our campaigns. Our citizens, our voters want to know where the money comes from,” Rep. Nathanson added. “This bill is about increasing transparency.”

The bill now goes to the Oregon Senate.

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