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Oregon House Passes Legislation to Expand Voting Rights and Strengthen Democracy

House Bill 2107 expands Oregon's Automatic Voter Registration system to the Oregon Health Plan

SALEM, Ore. - Today, Oregon House Democrats passed House Bill 2107, expanding Oregon's Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) system.

Oregon has long been an established leader in championing voter rights. In 2000, Oregon became the first Vote By Mail state, a model many states have followed—and which continues to be enormously popular with Oregonians. In 2015, the Legislature passed Oregon's AVR law, which automatically registered Oregonians to vote when they interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles. This law has succeeded in getting ballots into the hands of tens of thousands of new eligible voters.

Expanding AVR to the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) through House Bill 2107 will increase the number of Oregonians registered to vote and will improve the security and accuracy of voter registration data by adding another source of information to update addresses.

"This bill is the next step in a years-long effort to give every eligible Oregon voter a meaningful opportunity to cast a ballot," said **House Majority Leader Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta)**. "Oregonians have consistently embraced the value that voting should be convenient, accessible, and secure. This bill will ensure that more Oregonians can participate in the democratic process and make their voices heard."

"The right to vote is critical. We have all witnessed how our democracy thrives when more voices are heard, more votes are cast and more Oregonians are engaged in decision making processes," said **Representative Khanh Pham (D-Outer SE Portland)**. "With the passage of House Bill 2107, we are getting closer to securing that critical right to participate in our democracy for every eligible Oregonian."

"While other states are working to reduce access to the ballot, I am proud to support legislation, like House Bill 2107, that makes our state's elections system more

accessible,” **said [Representative Jason Kropf \(D-Bend\)](#)**. “Ensuring Oregon’s elections are accessible and secure is of great importance to me, and I am proud that our state consistently has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country.

Even with Oregon’s success with AVR at the DMV, roughly 10% of Oregonians do not have a drivers’ license, and younger and lower-income populations are less likely than other groups to have a license or interact with the DMV. Currently, there are more than 200,000 Oregonians who are eligible to vote, but who remain unregistered.

OHP is an ideal program for AVR expansion due to Medicaid’s existing citizenship verification process, experience with data sharing, and the fact that it reaches populations that might otherwise be hard to engage. Under federal law, Medicaid must already ask about and then verify applicants’ citizenship status. Additionally, Medicaid offices already routinely and securely share data with other agencies.

Similar bills have already passed in Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Washington, D.C.

House Bill 2107 is part of Oregon House Democrats’ [Caucus Agenda](#) priority to work to strengthen our democracy this session.

The bill passed 34-25 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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