



**Oregon Secretary of State
Dennis Richardson**

Testimony Supporting the -4 Amendment to SB 1013

Secretary of State Dennis Richardson is committed to encouraging voter participation and maximizing access while ensuring election integrity. He believes that every Oregonian who is eligible to vote should be able to vote.

In April, Secretary Richardson launched a major expansion of voter access through a new administrative rule that protected the rights of an estimated 60,000 Oregonians to receive ballots, including Oregonians serving our country on military deployments, college students, and voters frustrated with the political system. This was the first major expansion of voter access that received bipartisan support in many years.

Secretary Richardson is working with the Bus Project to find further ways to continue expanding voter access that have broad bipartisan support in the legislature. We want to use available technology to improve accuracy and efficiency in the elections process. We believe that helping our veterans through the -4 amendment to Senate Bill 1013 is the logical next step. This is Oregon's way to acknowledge the sacrifices our veterans have made. By expanding opportunities for our veterans to vote, we make it easier for them to participate in the democratic process they defended.

The -4 amendment would launch a study of expanding automatic voter registration and updating voter addresses through interactions with the Department of Veterans Affairs and their veterans' service offices around the state. The Elections Division would staff the study and do most of the technical work. We would solicit input throughout the process from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Bus Project, veterans groups, legislators, and other interested Oregonians. We would submit a report to the legislature on our findings and recommendations by November legislative days, which will allow any needed authorizing legislation to be considered during the 2018 session.

Contact: Steve Elzinga 503-986-2259 or stephen.elzinga@state.or.us