



Date: July 24, 2018

To: Members of the Financial Estimate Committee:

From: Laurie Wimmer, Government Relations Consultant, OEA

RE: *Initiative Petition 31*

On behalf of the 46,000 members of the Oregon Education Association, I am writing to urge changes to the Financial Estimate Statement for IP 31.

The draft Financial Statement says that the fiscal impact of IP 31 is “indeterminate”, which is misleading. This constitutional amendment would raise the threshold for number of votes for a wide variety of policy actions: for raising fees to keep our state operational, for closing tax loopholes used exclusively by the wealthy, for getting rid of wasteful tax credits (such as those for swimming pools and golf courses), and for other revenue policy not here enumerated.

The express purpose of IP 31 is to make it harder for the Legislature to be fiscally responsible. Massive political gridlock and an inability to fund the services and high-quality public schools that Oregon families rely on and deserve will be the likely outcome – all of which have costs.

The financial statement should reflect the proponents’ intended outcomes so that voters truly understand what the impact would be on the state budget. IP 31 will make it harder to fund essential public services, and any statement that fails to indicate this fails to accurately inform the voters.

We suggest an amendment to the language that reads:

State Government: The financial impact to state revenue and expenditures is indeterminate.

Local Government: The financial impact to local government expenditures and revenues is indeterminate.

The measure amends the Constitution to increase barriers to funding for state services, including schools, housing, child welfare, and environmental protection.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.