TESTIMONY OF COMMON CAUSE OREGON

Before

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMMITTEE FOR IP 57

July 31, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed fiscal impact statement for Initiative Petition 57. The proposed statement reads:

This measure amends the Constitution to repeal the current legislative process to create a twelve-member citizen commission to draw both congressional and state legislative districts. The measure requires the Legislative Assembly appropriate General Fund dollars to support the commission however the measure itself does not require a certain amount. The financial impact to the state is indeterminate. Local government expenditures will not be impacted.

The proposed statement should be amended to improve accuracy.

First, the proposed fiscal impact statement should be amended to clarify that under the current redistricting process, the General Assembly must appropriate General Fund dollars to support redistricting. The current language fails to make clear that this is not exclusively a new appropriation and leads a voter to believe that there is no cost to maintaining the status quo.

Second, the Proposed Fiscal Impact Statement should be amended to clarify that while the measure does not “itself require a certain amount” and the total financial impact to the state is unclear, IP 57 specifically provides for the necessary categories of spending and does not provide a blank check to the proposed commission or to any individual commissioner.

Finally, the statement should be amended to include the fact that any funds appropriated by the Legislative Assembly that are not required for the work of the commission, must be returned to the General Fund.

A more accurate statement would read (additions in bold):

This measure amends the Constitution to repeal the current legislative process to create a twelve-member citizen commission to draw both congressional and state legislative districts. The measure requires the Legislative Assembly appropriate General Fund dollars to support specific costs incurred by the commission however the measure itself does not require a certain amount nor does it permit the commission to spend General Fund appropriations on unrelated functions. The measure requires that any funds appropriated by the Legislative Assembly but not spent must be returned to the General Fund. The financial impact to the state is indeterminate. Local government expenditures will not be impacted.