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Open Primary/Measure 65 Calls On OEA to Retract False Statements

(Portland, OR) Today, on behalf of the Vote Yes on Measure 65 – Every Voter Counts committee, former Secretaries of State Norma Paulus and Phil Keisling filed a request with Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and Attorney General Hardy Myers, asking them to investigate whether the Oregon Education Association's (OEA) second mailing that falsely claims the sponsors of Measure 65 are Bill Sizemore and Kevin Mannix violate Oregon campaign laws including as the Oregon Corrupt Practices Act.

"Last week, after the first mailing, we immediately asked the OEA to stop sending out messages that they know to be untrue," said Norma Paulus. "Despite agreeing in public statements to the media they would be 'clear in the future about who the initiative sponsors are', they sent a second, blatantly false advertisement. We believe there is clear and convincing evidence that OEA leadership has violated the Corrupt Practices Act."

"As a former Superintendent of Public Instruction, I find the most lamentable thing about these brazen actions is that they have sullied the reputation of Oregon's hardworking teachers."

As a result of the second mailing, today Paulus and Keisling have sent a second letter to OEA Executive Director Jerry Caruthers, asking him once again to publicly retract the false statements, to correct the record with his members and to apologize to the supporters of Measure 65 no later than Thursday, October 30.

"Because Oregonians vote by mail over the course of several weeks, it is likely people already have voted based on lies and misinformation," said Keisling. "The OEA has to be held accountable for its actions. The second flyer literally adds insult to injury by associating Measure 65 with another person who had nothing to do with it. This behavior may be politics as usual elsewhere, but it has no place in Oregon politics."

"There is no legitimate reason for the OEA to try to confuse voters," said Barb Dudley of the Ballot Freedom Project. "Educators should be made aware of the measures that will truly hurt working families, not Measure 65, which will make

the process of voting more open.”

“I really don’t understand why my union, the OEA, is taking a stand on this measure, much less opposing it. What does an open primary have to do with education?” said Todd Jones, a public school teacher in West Linn and a strong supporter of Measure 65. “I’m hoping that including Measure 65 on a mailer denigrating Bill Sizemore was a mistake on OEA’s part. I can’t imagine that my union would lie deliberately.”

“What is really upsetting is how this undermines the important, bipartisan work that needs to be done to adequately fund and improve Oregon schools,” said State Senator Frank Morse. (R – Albany).

“People need to understand who Measure 65’s real supporters are – John Kitzhaber, Vic Atiyeh, Earl Blumenauer, and Sam Adams to name just a few elected leaders from both sides of the aisle,” said former Portland city commissioner Erik Sten.

“More than 100,000 citizens from across Oregon brought this measure to the ballot. They deserve better than this.”

View copies of the letter to the Attorney General and Secretary of State [here](#) and the letter to OEA Executive Director Jerry Caruthers [here](#).

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