

BILL BRADBURY  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
PADDY J. McGUIRE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF OREGON  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
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18 May 2006

Mr. Andrew S. Davidson  
President and CEO  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems  
4000 Kruse Way Place, Bldg. 2, Suite 100  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Dear Mr. Davidson,

Thank you for your letter of May 17 regarding the Workers Rights Board Fair Election Oversight Commission that I Chair.

As Secretary of State I serve as Oregon's Chief Elections Officer, and it is my duty to protect free access to and fair execution of democracy. Democratic principles are not limited to elections for public office, rather our society uses democratic principles often in decision-making.

I have met with foreign dignitaries on multiple occasions to advocate for democratic principles in other countries, and I regularly advocate for the expansion of vote by mail outside Oregon's borders; both of these actions are beyond the narrow scope of my constitutional duties but nevertheless are an important role of my office.

The role of the Fair Elections Oversight Commission is not to advocate for or against a union. We leave that decision entirely up to the workers themselves. The Commission is also not a government entity. The Commission merely encourages public support for the democratic principle that the workers at Providence Health System have the right to a free and fair election, without intimidation or electioneering, with equal access to accurate information, and with fair and simple groundrules. Workers have the right to a union election that is treated with the same respect as we would treat any other election in this American democracy.

I invite you to attend the hearing and have set aside time on the agenda for you or your members to offer testimony. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, in the Auditorium of the Portland Building, 1150 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in Portland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bradbury".

Bill Bradbury  
Secretary of State

