



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

MEASURE: HB 2577
EXHIBIT: R
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
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SUBMITTED BY: KAPPY EATON

March 18, 2011

To: House Revenue Committee
Representative Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair
Representative Vicki Berger, Co-Chair

Re: HB 2577, Elderly Medical Expense - Support

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, grassroots, political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. We believe that state government should provide essential services to Oregonians, and that these must be adequately funded. Because of the current economic crisis, it is necessary to examine both the costs and the revenue sources that undergird such services.

HB 2577 addresses the deduction for medical expenses allowed for Oregon citizens over 63 years of age, with the age increasing to 66 after 2014. Adding an economic means test to the medical deduction is a critical point. The current law is regressive. HB 2577 mitigates both the age and the income issues.

Eliminating some of the impact to the state's budget as well as making the senior medical deduction more equitable is good fiscal policy. The League urges the committee to move HB 2577 forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.


Marge Easley
President


Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator