



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 13, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Betsy Close, Vice Chair

Re: SB 412 – Relating to Public Meetings - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization. The League believes democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) are commended for efforts to involve the public in Health Care Reform and in the development of the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). Staff travelled to regions of the state in order to collect public input, and staffed workgroups to include citizen stakeholder recommendations. The OHPB currently has board meetings which are open to the public.

The Coordinated Care Organizations have been approved in many regions of the state and have implemented the administration of the regional organizations. The League encourages the regional agencies to follow the open meetings practices of its parent organization. The participation of citizens in their communities can assist the CCO in forming a more dynamic presence in the region. The CCO can adjust quickly to citizen concerns and form a more responsive patient care system.

The League supports the inclusion of CCOs in the public meetings law.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in black ink.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in black ink.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator