



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 13, 2013

To: House Human Services and Housing Committee
Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Chair

Re: HB 2392 - The Youth Development Council - Comments

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The LWVOR has a Juvenile Justice position which states prevention of juvenile crimes should be a priority in our society. Prevention programs should be available from early childhood to adulthood and make available early diagnosis and treatment for physical, mental and educational problems. The League supports the concept of the Youth Development Council.

The League has some concerns about the transition of the Commission on Children and Families services to the new system. The current juvenile crime prevention programs are ongoing year around services, which need continuous funding support. Counties can assume the administrative function until the new hubs are implemented, but no funding gap should exist during this transition.

The County Juvenile Departments should be involved in the approval of juvenile crime prevention programs. The intent of the prevention funds are to divert youth from involvement in the juvenile justice system. Communities have chosen which services to fund, including providing mentors, tutors, counseling groups, parenting education, and temporary shelter homes. The demographics in each county are different and the needs for specific programs are different. Counties and regional hubs should maintain the flexibility to choose programs that meet the needs in their communities.

Coordination with the health care organizations has been mandated on the regional level. This is reasonable as there are overlapping areas of interest, such as school based health centers, addictions and mental health, and family planning clinics. The League supports an effort to provide information to young adults on prevention of unintended pregnancies.

The League supports the Youth Development Council and services for children 6 – 20 and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

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Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

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Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator