



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 14, 2011

To: Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Members of Committee
(WaysandMeans.PublicSafetySub@state.or.us)

Re: HB 5005 - Department of Corrections - Comments

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a position on Adult Corrections which strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration where possible. The League also believes that comprehensive transitional programs are essential for successful completion of rehabilitation for each inmate released or paroled from a correctional facility.

The League commends the Department of Corrections for the success of its Transition Program and the improvement in its recidivism rate. The Transition Program appears to contain the elements needed for parolees to have a successful reintegration into the community. Equally, we commend the Community Corrections Division for the development of treatment programs as well as supervision in the community as an alternative to incarceration.

The League supports the recommendations of the Commission on Public Safety 2012 in the effort to hold the most violent offenders in prisons and treat the property and drug offenders in the community. The League supports judicial discretion in applying a range of months in sentencing property and drug offenders. The League also supports the further development of treatment courts to rehabilitate offenders.

The League encourages the legislature to consider the second look provision for juveniles sentenced under the adult system. The youth offenders should have an incentive to complete education and treatment programs and earn a court review with an option for an early release. If these youth offenders do not move into DOC facilities, there will be a savings in the DOC budget. These savings could help pay for Community Corrections Programs. If more offenders remain in the community, greater resources will be needed for local supervision, treatment options, and jail space for sanctions.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator