



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 20, 2013

To: Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair

Re: HB 5050 – Oregon Youth Authority - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The LWVOR has a position on Juvenile Justice that supports services for juvenile offenders in the least restrictive environment and/or treatment-oriented secure custody.

The League approves of the trend to increase community residential placements for youth offenders and to cap the numbers of youth offenders in correctional facilities. The League is concerned about the numbers of adult system commitments to OYA facilities. There is a potential for savings in the per person cost with shorter length of stay.

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 they have been compliant with behavior and program rules. The length of stay has not proven to be an effective deterrent to future criminal behavior.

County Juvenile Departments supervise youth offenders in the community in their own homes and in private placements. Counties rely on state funding for basic services and detention facilities to manage youth in the community. The cost for county probation supervision is much lower than correctional facilities and should be supported at a higher level in order to reduce the need for OYA placements.

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