



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 28, 2013

To: Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair

Re: HB 5030 – Oregon Health Authority – Addictions and Mental Health – 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 Mental Health which supports a comprehensive and integrated adult mental health services delivery system which includes both community and state programs and facilities and state budget allocations jointly determined by Community Mental Health Programs and the state Addictions and Mental Health Division.

The League encourages the legislature to increase funding to the community mental health programs. For too long the community supports and treatment for adults have been insufficient. Jails and hospital emergency rooms should not be the only treatment available. Access to community hospitalization for acute mental illness incidents and follow up treatment by community mental health is an urgent need. The system has done well with the management of long term clients and the inclusion of peer supports, but the access for new clients is too restrictive. Early response and treatment is less expensive in the long run. Currently, the costs for untreated mentally ill persons in the community are falling on the local resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

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Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator