



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

March 5, 2013

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

Re: HB 5007 – Criminal Justice Commission - Support

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 supports the adoption of sentencing guidelines and strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration, such as treatment for mental illness and substance abuse.

The League has been impressed with the work of the Criminal Justice Commission to gather information on corrections practices and the use of research based data and studies in evaluating policy decisions. Specifically, we appreciate the consultation with the PEW Charitable Trust and the staff assistance to the 2011 and 2012 Commissions on Public Safety. Now that the PEW Findings have been presented to the Legislature, we support the continued involvement of the CJC staff in providing information to the Joint Committee for Public Safety.

The League encourages the Legislature to continue to support the work of the Criminal Justice Commission and to fund specialty courts and substance abuse treatment programs in this budget and other public safety budgets.

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