



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 9, 2015

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair

Re: SB 5506 – 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 supported 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 supports the work of the Criminal Justice Commission to gather data on corrections practices and use research based data to promote more effective policies and programs. The League encourages the Legislature to fund the Justice Reinvestment Projects in Community Corrections programs. The decrease of prison operation costs can fund more effective community rehabilitation programs in the long term, but the initial investments are needed to turn the trajectory of the prison population growth.

The League continues to support specialty courts and substance abuse treatment programs in this budget as a method to decrease criminal behavior and recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

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Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in black ink.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator

Cc: Linda Gilbert, Legislative Fiscal Officer, Committee Administrator