



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

February 5, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Senator Jeff Kruse  
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Re : **SB 114** - Related to Two-Generational Strategy--SUPPORT

From: Robin Wisdom, President LWVOR  
Karen Nibler, LWVOR Action Committee, Social Policy

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since 1969 the League of Women Voters of the United States has supported programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and **to prevent and reduce poverty**. Since 1994, LWVUS has taken a position that **early intervention and prevention measures** are effective in **helping children reach their full potential**. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children. These include: child abuse/neglect prevention; teen pregnancy prevention; quality health care, including nutrition and prenatal care; early childhood education; developmental services, emphasizing children ages 0-3; **family support services**; and violence prevention.

The League supports **SB 114**, a bill relating to a two-generation strategy to address poverty that directs the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to **evaluate methods for providing components of two-generation strategy to address poverty**. The Legislative Revenue Office has reviewed the proposed legislation and determined that it has No Impact on state or local revenues analyzed by this office.

A new term—**Two-Generation Strategy**—focuses on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together. Your legislative counterparts with membership in the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) have considered two studies showing cost savings, return on investment and many positive human results from the two generation strategy. Those NCSL highlighted studies include **National Center for Families Learning** and **Ascend at The Aspen Institute**. **This research shows that two-generation learning can increase student**

achievement, expand parent engagement, improve adult reading behaviors and prepare parents to help their children with school including components of early childhood education, job training/post-secondary education, and wrap-around family support services.

Casey Family Foundation, as a premier childhood researcher, published a recent study [Creating Opportunity for Family](#) showing the inability of families to obtain sufficient financial resources results in an inability to secure adequate nutrition, clothing, housing, health care and educational advantages. If a family, or the individuals in a family, cannot break the poverty cycle, energies can be exhausted, hope can be lost and the dire results of inadequate financial resources continue to affect the next deprived generation. Another highly respected study from the Center for Disease Control, Adverse Childhood Experiences, [ACE Study](#), documents that childhood trauma and poverty leave a trail of cognitive, behavioral, and health wreckages in their wake, and when untreated, these adverse experiences are often revisited on the next generation.

Oregon has an opportunity to create synergy with leadership from the OEIB and ELC to further recent partnerships built between the Early Learning Division, Oregon Health Plan, and Oregon Human Services. The above research shows that a “lens” of Two-Generation Strategy may better focus these partnerships for positive long term benefits in education, health, jobs, and reduced need for safety-net services.

**The League urges the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood to advance SB 114 from Committee with a “do pass” recommendation.**