



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 20, 2015

House Human Services and Housing Committee
Representative Keny-Guyer, Chair
Representative Carla Piluso, Vice-Chair
Representative Diane Stark, Vice-Chair
taisheka.broom@state.or.us

Re: HB 2232 – Runaway and Homeless Youth Services - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWVOR did a study on Runaway and Homeless Youth in 2007. The League developed a position which supports providing services to these youth, such as shelter, food, education, health care, mental health and addiction treatment, plus outreach to encourage youth to use services.

The League feels strongly that shelter care should be available for children separated from parents. The shelter programs provide a safe alternative to these children who might have been abandoned, kicked out of parent's homes, neglected or abused, or runaway from undesirable situations. Girls or boys may be offered shelter by adults who abuse or traffic them for profit. Shelters are prevention programs that should be available in every county or region in the state.

The expansion of this Runaway and Homeless Youth program might be promoted by members of an advisory committee; thus, we support the proposal for an Advisory Committee for the Department of Human Services RYH program.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator