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March 25, 2015

Letter In Support of HB 5001; Oregon Advocacy Commissions Budget; Submitted by Trish Garner, AAUW of Oregon (American Association of University Women)

On behalf of AAUW of Oregon, we wish to express our strong support for House Bill 5001 that appropriates to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OAC) the amount of \$1,044,049.00 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015.

AAUW of Oregon is a community collaborator with the OAC, and together we are working to establish equality for all Oregonian women and girls. This year we have intensified our interest in Oregon policy by appointing a Public Policy Chair who regularly advises and calls to action statewide members about legislative priorities. Our focus for the 2015 Legislative Session is comprised of a number of economic issues of importance to the citizens of Oregon, including Fair Pay, Paid Sick Time and Childcare Financial Assistance for College Students. These are precisely the kinds of issues that OCFW has prioritized.

We have found the OAC, and the Oregon Commission for Women in particular, to be of critical assistance in developing policies and providing information to our organization. OAC's budget request is designed to increase staff working on policy, communications and outreach. These are precisely the areas that AAUW of Oregon finds so helpful. For example, the OCFW has supported studies of Labor Trafficking in Multnomah County through its internship program. There are clearly a number of other issues that merit close, professional study and data analysis, and the legislative budget request is designed to do just this.

We urge the adoption of the OAC's budget request. We also thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on an issue that is so critical for the women and girls of Oregon. Please do not hesitate to contact Trish Garner, Chair, Public Policy, at [garner37@mac.com](mailto:garner37@mac.com) if we can provide further information.