LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
O F   O R E G O N

April 9, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
        Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
        Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair

Re: SB 213 Requires Early Learning Council to develop metrics for Early Learning Hubs. Support

The League of Women Voters is a 95 year old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters believes 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.

SB 213 strengthens the contracting requirements for Hubs and strengthens the metrics utilized to evaluate Hub effectiveness. The bill clarifies cross-agency cooperation to enhance services available through county health departments and coordinated care organizations to provide better early intervention services for children. It strengthens the coordination efforts among education and human services in linking early education with K-12 success, providing at-risk children and their families with high quality child care, nutrition and other essential human services.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund has spent the past two years studying legislative and operational changes in Oregon's Early Learning System and recognizes the Oregon Education Investment Board and the Early Learning Council for their commitment to open meetings. We commend the Early Learning Division for their willingness to share their roll-out process with us. LWVOR shall continue to follow the process, recognizing it will take time for recent changes in the delivery of services to mature. SB 213 fine tunes the Early Learning System and strengthens local involvement in Hubs.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

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