



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

April 10, 2015

To: House Committee On Education
Rep. Margaret Doherty, Chair
Rep. Lew Frederick , Vice Chair
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair
Richard.donovan@state.or.us

Re: HB 3380 Directs Early Learning Division to administer preschool program. 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.

This bill seeks to regulate consistent quality standards for voluntary preschool programs and to provide opportunities for screening, referrals and coordination with health care providers for those in voluntary preschool programs. The League of Women Voters believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. High-quality early childhood education and intervention provides an excellent opportunity to reduce preventable cognitive and social disabilities that later cost state dollars.

The bill also gives priority placement in voluntary pre-school opportunities for those at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Substantial equity-lens research supports enhanced access for children living in poverty and underserved minority populations. The League supports this portion of the bill because significant cognitive and social disadvantages often emerge before children enter kindergarten.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator