



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

April 17, 2015

To: [House Committee On Education](#)  
Rep. Margaret Doherty  
Rep. Lew Frederick  
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger  
richard.donovan@state.or.us

Re: [HB 2016](#) Relating to statewide education plans to develop and implement statewide education plan for educationally disadvantaged youth, 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 an equitable, quality public education is critical for students including greatly increased educational opportunity through compensatory programs for disadvantaged groups beginning at the preschool level and extending through secondary education; and 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. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children.

The bill proposes that minority youth who have been historically underserved, and for whom a significant achievement gap exists compared with other youth, should be supported in culturally appropriate ways to enter kindergarten ready to learn. The League supports a plan to address the educational needs of educationally disadvantaged youth including: reducing the disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents for educationally disadvantaged youth compared to other youth in the education system; increasing parental engagement in the education of educationally disadvantaged youth; increasing the engagement of educationally disadvantaged youth in educational activities before and after regularly scheduled school hours; increasing the percentage of educationally disadvantaged youth who earn a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma and who enroll in a post-secondary institution of education; ensure that educationally disadvantaged youth in grades 6 through 12 who had not considered enrolling in a post-secondary institution of education are directed toward, and are able to access, post-secondary educational opportunities that align with their interests and abilities; and ensure that educationally disadvantaged youth in post-secondary institutions of education receive culturally appropriate services, including orientations, mentoring and support as a first generation college student, to increase retention and graduation rates at postsecondary institutions of education.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in black ink.

Robin Wisdom  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in black ink.

Karen Nibler  
Social Policy Coordinator

cc: Representative Kotek