



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON

April 21, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
[maria.i.hernandez@state.or.us](mailto:maria.i.hernandez@state.or.us)

Re: SB 890 Relating to economic well-being Two Generational Approach to Success. **Support**

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since 1969 the League of Women Voters of the United States has supported programs, services and policies at all levels of government to increase access to employment to prevent and reduce poverty. 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.

A term—**Two-Generation Strategy**—focuses on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together. Your legislative counterparts with membership in the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) have considered two studies showing cost savings, return on investment and many positive human results from the two generation strategy. Those NCSL highlighted studies include [National Center for Families Learning](#) and [Ascend at The Aspen Institute](#). This research shows that two-generation learning can increase student achievement, expand parent engagement, improve adult reading behaviors and prepare parents to help their children with school, including components of early childhood education, job training/post-secondary education, and wrap-around family support services. Casey Family Foundation, as a premier childhood researcher, published a recent study [Creating Opportunity for Family](#) showing the inability of families to obtain sufficient financial resources resulting in an inability to secure adequate nutrition, clothing, housing, health care and educational advantages. If a family, or the individuals in a family, cannot break the poverty cycle, energies can be exhausted, hope can be lost and the dire results of inadequate financial resources continue to affect the next deprived generation. Another highly respected study from the Center for Disease Control, Adverse Childhood Experiences, [ACE Study](#), documents that childhood trauma and poverty leave a trail of cognitive, behavioral, and health wreckages in their wake, and when untreated, these adverse experiences are often revisited on the next generation.

A Two-Generation Strategy may result in positive long term benefits in education, health, jobs, and reduced need for safety-net services. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Robin Wisdom  
LWVOR President

Karen Nibler  
Social Policy Coordinator

cc: [Senator Rosenbaum](#), [Senator Shields](#), [Senator Dembrow](#), [Representative Helm](#),  
[Representative Vega Pederson](#), [Representative Lively](#)