



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

May 8, 2015

To: House Rules Committee  
Representative Val Hoyle, Chair  
Representative Vic Gilliam, Vice-Chair  
Representative Barbara Smith-Warner, Vice Chair  
hrules.exhibits@state.or.us

Re: HB 3535 A – Relating to public assistance - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWVUS believes that one of the goals of social policy should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. Oregon has significant pockets of poverty in the state.

The League supports the redesign of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in order to provide stability to families. Coordination with other community agencies can provide for emergency needs and avoid applications for TANF. When a family does qualify for TANF, cash assistance for basic needs is essential. The benefit level is so low that any additional support payments provide stability. The transition to work for 3 months to 12 months, with extended payments, should help stabilize parents in new employment. Work should be encouraged: participants' total income should increase as earnings increase.

The provision of Employment Related Day Care assists parents who are in school or training programs or who have become employed. The transition to self-sufficiency can be difficult in the first few months and additional assistance can provide the stability needed to make the initial adjustment. The League also supports the provision of SNAP benefits and Medicaid coverage for low income families.

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