

February 4, 2016

To: House Health Care Committee

Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair Rep Rob Nosse, Vice Chair

Email: hhc.exhibits@state.or.us

Re: HB 4017 – Basic Health Program - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a position to promote a health care system that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all residents and controls health care costs.

The League commends the Senate and House Health Care Committees for their work on the health care legislation in the past 3 biennia. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) passed by Congress in 2010 has allowed Oregon to develop and implement health care services for low-income families with children and low-income adults. Oregon has responded by expanding services to cover Medicaid eligible adults and children in the Coordinated Care Organizations.

The League endorses the effort to expand the eligibility for health care for legal residents from 138% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level under the Basic Health Plan. This plan could cover more of the uninsured and help control health care costs by treating medical problems at an earlier less expensive stage.

Many of our members are in favor of universal coverage, and this is the next step toward that goal. The League endorses the work to develop a blueprint for the implementation of health care delivery to this expanded population in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill

LWVOR President

Karen Nibler

Social Policy Coordinator