



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

February 8, 2016

To: House Judiciary Committee  
Rep. Jeff Barker, Chair

Re: HB 4074 - Relating to Juveniles - **Comments**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The LWVOR has a position on Juvenile Justice that supports services for juvenile offenders in the least restrictive environment and/or treatment-oriented secure custody.

The League commends the work group members who revised the juvenile code on juvenile sexual offender registration. We think that the juvenile sex offender registration upon release from institutions should not be automatic. Since psychological evaluation and treatment programs are available in the Oregon Youth Authority Facilities and/or the Department of Human Services/Oregon Health Authority placements, the staff can make recommendations on the release conditions. Those who have responded well to sex offender treatment and are not considered a danger, should have the registration lifted. In fact those who have done well should be considered for early release.

The League remains concerned about the youth offenders committed in the adult system. The recognition of the research on juvenile brain development and effective treatment programs should eventually lead to shorter length of commitments and reduced costs in the OYA facilities. We support the supervision by the Oregon Youth Authority or Psychiatric Security Review Board and trust their judgement in release planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in cursive.

Norman Turrill  
LWV of Oregon President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler  
Social Policy Coordinator