



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 9, 2016

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
Representative Carla Piluso, Vice Chair
Representative Duane Stark, Vice Chair

Re: HB 4080– Governor's Foster Care Advisory Commission - **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League supports policies, programs, and funding at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children. The League has long been an advocate for vulnerable youth and children.

The Commission established by this bill will be made up of foster parents, foster children advocates, juvenile dependency attorneys, and others who deal with foster care issues. The Commission will study and make recommendations on accountability measurements such as how long children have been in foster care and how often they are transferred from one home to another. The safety and well-being of the more than 7,500 children in the state foster care system is a high priority since these children and youth are very vulnerable and demonstrate many of the “at-risk” factors and adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that may make it more challenging to succeed in school and in life. Oregon’s most vulnerable children deserve representation through this Commission. Please **SUPPORT** this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWV of Oregon President

Handwritten signature of Christine M. Vogel in black ink.

Chris Vogel
Children at Risk/Education Portfolio