



TO: Joint Interim Committee on Referendum 301
FROM: Trish Garner, State Public Policy Chair, AAUW of OR
DATE: September 14, 2017
RE: Comments on Proposed R301 Ballot Title

"PROVIDES FUNDS CURRENTLY BUDGETED TO PAY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND TO STABILIZE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS, USING TEMPORARY ASSESSMENTS ON INSURANCE COMPANIES, SOME HOSPITALS, AND OTHER PROVIDERS OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. "

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield and Members of the Committee:

Plainly and simply, we believe that the proposed ballot title fails to give the citizens of Oregon the slightest idea of what the Referendum actually says, and in fact is highly misleading.

The underlying issues of budgeting, provision of healthcare and the implications of state – federal medical matching funds are undoubtedly complicated, but at the very least the citizens of Oregon deserve to know what a “yes” or a “no” vote will mean for them.

The proposed language utterly fails to even hint at and in fact omits any reference about the breadth of the deleterious consequences for the health and well being of everyday Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Trish Garner
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