

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 27, 2017

To: Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair

House Committee on Education

Re: <u>HB 2261</u> Youth Development Council to include coordinating statewide services to youth who identify as LGBTQ, <u>Support</u>

The League of Women Voters believes that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

We support HB 2261 to expand ORS 417.847 responsibilities of the Youth Development Council (YDC) to include coordinating statewide services to youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. This is consistent with YDC's existing legislative charge to address individual risk factors in a manner that are culturally, gender and age appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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