



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon 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.

March 14, 2017

To: [Joint Subcommittee on Education](#)
Co-chair [Senator Rod Monroe](#)
Co-chair [Representative Barbara Smith Warner](#)

Re: [SB 5516](#) Department of Education
Budget for the **Youth Development Division, SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. The League supports policies and programs designed to: increase job opportunities and provide opportunities and/or incentives for basic or remedial education and job training.

We have followed, over many years, the work of Youth Development and the creation of the Youth Development Council. We commend their oversight of a unified system, which provides services to high-risk youth 16-24 years of age in a manner that supports educational success, focuses on crime prevention, and reduces high risk behaviors. Many of these youth have numerous adverse childhood experiences, or ACES factors, and live with ongoing family and financial crises. They benefit from a perspective of encouraging high school completion, assistance in finding a pathway through CTE or workforce/WorkSource training to a career with a livable wage job. [“The percentages of students not graduating on time, within traditional school programs, disproportionately comprise students with disabilities, students of color, students navigating poverty, and male students.”](#) Youth Development provides services for these disenfranchised young adults.

LWVOR is distressed with the deep levels of cuts outlined in the 10%, 12%, and 15% reduction impacts (attached) considered for the Youth Development Division. Even at a 10% cut, real harm will be done. **We see the minimal proposed budget expenditures in SB 5516 for Youth Development as cost effective and urge support of the proposed 2017-2019 investments. Additionally, if additional monies could be shifted internally within the ODE budget, or found elsewhere, we believe that existing Youth Development services should continue at least at the level of funding provided in the 15-17 LAB.** We acknowledge that some of the past funding sources are federal and may not be available at past levels. As LWVOR has stated in numerous revenue and ways and means hearings this session, Oregon must find stable and fair revenue sources, rather than cutting services to those with high risk factors, Oregon’s most vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Chris Vogel in black ink.

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator