



**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.

April 4, 2017

To: [House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development](#)
Chair, Representative Jeff Reardon

Re: [HB 2311](#) Makes 40-40-20 higher education goals relate to Oregonians completing education, rather than to all adult Oregonians.

Support with Comment

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that governments, at all levels, have a responsibility to oversee and coordinate a comprehensive network of services to maximize student's readiness to be successful in school while optimizing available resources. LWV believes that it is the responsibility of government to provide equality of opportunity for education for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. We support basic education and occupational education. The League supports: programs in basic education, occupational education and retraining when needed at any point of an individual's working career; expanded opportunities in apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs, which programs should be carefully tailored to the educational or employment needs of the people they are intended to reach.

We commend the Governor's Office and the Higher Education Coordinating Committee for tracking Oregonian's progress with 40-40-20 to determine how best to serve the existing adult population and students still in the pipeline of K-12 education. We appreciate that this bill will address some unintended consequences of 40-40-20 that limit access to education as institutions strive for "success" statistics that inadvertently penalize some students, especially adult students and those with high-risk factors that have been historically underserved.

LWVOR appreciates that the addition of Section 2 to ORS 350.014 considers that adult populations utilize higher education and expanded CTE/apprenticeship programs to retrain for current and projected job opportunities. Not all adults, nor the job market, require either a bachelors or associates degree, but do require additional skills training to promote labor market success and a livable family wage. Neither students nor the education institutions should be penalized for serving non-traditional students, yet to meet the existing rigidity of 40-40-20, education institutions K-Higher Education sometime sacrifice student overall achievement in order to meet limited "success" measurements of 40-40-20: *"SECTION 2. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in coordination with the State Workforce Investment Board, shall establish by rule educational attainment goals for adult Oregonians who are not currently enrolled in a kindergarten through grade 12 school, an institution of higher education or another post-secondary training program. (2) The educational attainment goals established under this section shall: (a) be associated with current and projected job opportunities for adult Oregonians; and (b) be designed to promote labor market success."*

Furthermore, **LWVOR encourages a broader look at the continuum of education goals around 40-40-20, from preschool through higher education**, and believes that amendments to Section 1 of ORS 350.014 begins that progress. Perhaps HB 2311 and HB 2657 (with amendments) could be considered together to address the concern that ["The percentages of students not graduating from high school on time disproportionately comprise students with disabilities, students of color, students navigating poverty, and male](#)

students.” Slide 23 of a [Chief Education Office budget presentation](#) clearly summarizes some of the risk factors underlying successful high school graduation and [HB 2657](#) addresses some of the unintended consequences for high risk youth who are not able to re-engage in traditional high schools because, in part, the schools are penalized in calculating high school graduation rates. Note that slides 27-36 of the [HECC budget presentation](#) suggest a rework of how 40-40-20 is calculated. As the session moves forward discussion about [HB 2587](#), in combination with [HB 2311](#), might be productive in reexamining the positive and negative aspects of 40-40-20 and establish modifications to best serve Oregon students.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill
LWVOR President



Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator

Cc: [House Committee on Education](#), Chair, Representative Margaret Doherty
[Senate Committee on Education](#), Chair, Senator Arnie Roblan