



**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 25, 2017

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)
[Representative Jennifer Williamson](#), Chair

Re: HB 2101 – 14 Review of Public Records disclosure exemptions – **Comments**

The League of Women Voters supports transparency and efficiency in government. We support managing exemptions for public records request disclosure, as we have supported related public records bills this session: SB 106, addressing establishment of a Public Records Advocate and Council, and SB 481, addressing Public Records Policy.

This bill's carefully crafted protocol reflects comprehensive attention to detail from collaboration by a well-qualified and diverse group. Thorough consideration is given to:

- Review: establish and define a process to catalog the roughly 550 disparate exemptions from public records disclosure. The catalog would be administered under the Attorney General's purview. Any exemption management must be addressed statutorily and must go through the Legislature. Placing responsibility for this oversight with a legislative body is the most efficient and appropriate action.
- Supporting inclusion: cooperating with and inviting advice and comment from the Attorney General, Governor, and Secretary of State, who oversee other aspects of Public Records management, also the public, and any public entity.
- Concurrent management of new issues: "Open Government Impact Statements" will weigh impact of new concerns in the context of conformation to existing standards.

As we have consistently this session, we are weighing proposals in the context of our budget shortfall. Heavy costs are currently incurred for legal review of disclosure exemptions with public records requests. We must protect personal privacy and enhance public safety while striving for transparency and accountability in government. Since disclosure exemptions are currently not well organized, this requires exhaustive review. Organizing these exemptions, while maintaining on-going cataloguing, should markedly reduce costs and improve service.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR Governance Coordinator