



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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 4, 2019

To: Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Carla Pilluso, Co-Chair

Re: **SB 5506** – Criminal Justice Commission Budget – **Support**

The League of Women Voters has a position on Adult Corrections, which supports the adoption of sentencing guidelines and strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration. The League has been impressed with the work of the Criminal Justice Commission.

The commission has been responsible for overseeing the grants to counties under the Justice Reinvestment Act. These funds have been used by communities to provide services such as housing, addiction treatment, training and job search skills, to persons who would otherwise have been given prison sentences. Many counties have been able to reduce the actual number of persons being sent to prison, giving offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation and saving funds that otherwise would have been spent on expensive prison beds.

In addition to overseeing the Justice Reinvestment grants, the Commission has had a strong focus on data collection. They manage a website that provides updated data on incarceration rates and other measures of program success. This information gives the public, program providers and policy makers an opportunity to see what progress is being made and where adjustments are needed.

This collection and dissemination of accurate data is essential to Oregon's continued success in changing our Criminal Justice system for the better, without compromising public safety.

The League supports full funding of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Justice Reinvestment Programs, which have proven to be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Ross".

Barbara Ross
LWVOR Criminal Justice Portfolio