



January 27, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Noble and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 2931.

It is frankly difficult for me to comprehend why we even need legislation requiring a person who arrests another to ensure that the arrested person receives a medical assessment at the time of arrest or as soon as practicable after the arrest.

That said and to the extent that there is any question, it is clear that such assistance must be given to all persons who are arrested, regardless of the circumstances and regardless of their race or ethnicity. After all, the nature of an arrest is to remove much of an individual's agency.

I understand that a letter has been filed by Michael Salvaggio, of the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs, stating that "the vast majority of police agencies" already have such a requirement in place. A vast majority is not sufficient and the state's intent to provide this assistance must be unequivocal.

The objection that this measure may run counter to a person's right to refuse treatment is also not persuasive. House Bill 2931 refers to a requirement for a medical assessment and not that treatment be rendered. That decision is one to be made by the arrested person in consultation with a health care professional.

Thank you.

Trish Garner
State Public Policy Chair, AAUW of OR