

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair  
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 2912 – Reauthorizing Re\*Membering

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County supports the passage of House Bill 2912 (Rep. Sanchez). HB 2912 improves the health and safety of Oregon communities by reauthorizing funding for Re\*Membering, which provides reentry-focused civil legal services to women during incarceration and reduces barriers to a successful return to the community. The funding provided by HB 2912 supports many of the principles of the Corrections Facilities position statement of the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County.

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County believes that the most important goal of a corrections system should be the successful reintegration of offenders back into the community as self-supporting, law-abiding citizens.

1. Offenders should be prepared for this by means of counseling, closely supervised parole or probation, and/or other rehabilitative programs.
2. Since incarceration should be regarded as punishment in itself, additional punishment should not be necessary.
3. Policies adopted by those responsible for the States of Oregon and Deschutes County Correctional Facilities should reflect an attitude which regards inmates as people who will soon return to society; policies should aim to lessen hostility and alienation rather than to increase them.

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County is in support of House Bill 2912 because it aligns so closely with these three above mentioned goals.

- Women who are incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility are released to counties throughout Oregon, including Deschutes County. To support their reintegration into the community, they often need support in overcoming legal, social and economic barriers.
- Access to support for civil legal issues that they're unable to address while incarcerated can help them navigate the laws and policies that are barriers to housing and employment once they are released.

- The Re\*Membering Project, funded by House Bill 2912 can help women address child custody and parental rights, debt, housing and employment, suspended/revoked driver licenses, real property and other basic human needs.
- Funding for HB 2912 to provide civil legal services for currently incarcerated women aligns with our values of lessening hostility and alienation of those who will soon be released.
- The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County understands that the Re\*Membering project has already served a diverse group of 60 women who reside in 20 different counties throughout Oregon.
- Please pass HB 2912 to reauthorize the funding for Re\*Membering so that this important work of helping women overcome barriers to a successful post-prison life can continue.

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County urges you to vote yes on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*Carol Loesche*

LWVDC President