



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 1, 2021

To: House Committee on Early Childhood  
Chair, Representative Karin Power  
Vice-Chair, Representative Lisa Reynolds  
Vice-Chair, Representative Jack Zika

Re: HB 3334-4 – Research to determine the structure and investment costs to offer a voluntary preschool for all by 2027 to maximize anticipated federal funding – **Support**

As you see from the LWV *Positions* at the end of this testimony, the League supports Oregon’s ongoing efforts to provide early learning and early childhood services to children with the highest priority going first to children living in poverty and/or children diagnosed with special needs.

There is not currently a comprehensive plan within Oregon to utilize anticipated funds that may be released through federal funding to develop preschool for all by 2027. Many CEOs, on a national basis, are calling preschool for all to be essential as an economic driver for business and workforce enhancement. This bill requests that the Early Learning Division put in-place a PLAN to utilize federal funding dollars that are often offered as grants with short application processes. If Oregon does not have this PLAN in place, then it likely would not be eligible to apply for anticipated federal funding for preschool for all, early learning, and/or early childhood.

HB 3334-4 (Taylor, Power) The plan developed under this section shall: “(a) Provide that participation in a preschool program is voluntary; “(b) Establish quality standards for publicly funded preschool programs, which may include: (A) The daily and yearly availability of preschool programs; and “(B) The requirement that preschool programs provide high quality, developmentally appropriate early learning that: “(i) Reflects best practices related to preschool; “(ii) Is culturally relevant; and “(iii) Includes multigenerational learning experiences; “(c) Be developed in collaboration with community stakeholders, including the Early Learning Council, the State Board of Education and families from demographics that are underrepresented in preschool programs; “(d) Create uniform preschool education standards across all local, state and federal publicly funded preschool programs; “(e) Identify eligibility requirements for children and families based on income level and other demographic criteria, which shall take into account eligibility criteria for current local, state and federal publicly funded preschool programs; “(f) Propose an approach for equitably distributing preschool slots in phases to ensure that preschool programs are accessible across the state and for tribal communities and that preschool programs are provided through a mixed delivery system; “(g) Be responsive to the scheduling needs and preferences of families; and “(h) Include recommendations for increasing the infrastructure capacity to accommodate an expansion in the provision of preschool programs, including the needs for facilities, workforce investments and local coordinated enrollment systems for families.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation and for your ongoing work with early childhood issues.

Signatures,

Becky Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel  
LWVOR Education Coordinator

Anne Nesse  
LWVOR Education Portfolio

The LWVOR Children at Risk *Position Statement* is based on a longitudinal 2013-2015 state and federal review as Oregon's children's services transitioned from those funded at the local level by separate County Commissions on Children and Families to a statewide oversight starting in 2011, [Children at Risk Study, LWVOR 2015](#). Concurrently, federal early childhood education grants resulted in similar changes across many states. LWVOR has continued to follow legislation, early learning hubs, the growing oversight of licensed day care, and continued guidance from the Early Learning Council.

*The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the early years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies, programs, and funding at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children. These include:*

- *Nutrition and food access for vulnerable children and families*
- *Access to affordable, safe, and stable housing*
- *Early screening (physical, dental, mental, and behavioral) for all children*
- *Early prenatal care and ongoing health care for children (physical, mental, dental)*
- *Access to affordable, quality child care*
- *Access to early literacy and pre-school programs, including but not limited to Early Head Start and Head Start*
- *Programs for mental health and addictions treatment for parents*
- *Family support, including but not limited to home visiting, parenting classes, and family relief nurseries*
- *Comprehensive services for children with developmental and cognitive disabilities*
- *Use of evidence-based practices in child welfare and foster care*
- *Programs to reduce poverty by providing parents with assistance in job training and education Policies and legislation to reduce racial or ethnic minority status inequities*

*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 children's readiness to be successful in school while optimizing available resources. LWVOR supports policies, programs, and funding at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children. We believe that the early years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. LWV is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.*

*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, LWVUS believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following: Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families; Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.*

Cc: Members of the [House Committee on Early Childhood](#)  
 Chair, Representative Karin Power, [Rep.KarinPower@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.KarinPower@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Vice-Chair, Representative Lisa Reynolds, [Rep.LisaReynolds@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.LisaReynolds@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Vice-Chair, Representative Jack Zika, [Rep.JackZika@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JackZika@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Member, Representative John Lively, [Rep.JohnLively@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JohnLively@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Member, Representative Courtney Neron, [Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Member, Representative Sheri Schouten, [Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Member, Representative Suzanne Weber, [Rep.SuzanneWeber@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.SuzanneWeber@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 Member, Representative Boomer Wright, [Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov)  
 1330 12<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Suite 200 • Salem, OR 97302 • 503-581-5722 • [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org) • [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

Members of the **[Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education](#)**

Co-Chair, Senator Lew Frederick, [Sen.LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov)

Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain, [Rep.SusanMcLain@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.SusanMcLain@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Senator Michael Dembrow, [Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Senator Chuck Thomsen, [Sen.ChuckThomsen@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.ChuckThomsen@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Representative Teresa Alonso Leon, [Rep.TeresaAlonsoLeon@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.TeresaAlonsoLeon@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Representative Bobby Levy, [Rep.BobbyLevy@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.BobbyLevy@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Representative E. Werner Reschke, [Rep.EWernerReschke@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.EWernerReschke@oregonlegislature.gov)

Member, Representative Ricki Ruiz, [Rep.RickiRuiz@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.RickiRuiz@oregonlegislature.gov)