



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 7, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Education
Chair, Senator Michael Dembrow
Vice-Chair, Senator Chuck Thomsen
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 356 - creates position of School Nurse Specialist in Department of Education - **SUPPORT**

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: early screening (physical, dental, mental, and behavioral) for all children; early prenatal care and ongoing health care for children (physical, mental, dental).

It is of utmost importance that our children be nurtured in a healthy environment, so that we can look forward to a much more positive health care outcome in their futures. Increasing health care knowledge for parents and youth will reduce expenditures for our state in the longer term. Preventative health care education and practice is documented to decrease health care costs to a population in their future. In many areas of health care research and development, a School Nurse Specialist in the Department of Education can help.

Here is a short list of some of the knowledge a School Nurse Specialist can bring to the Department of Education: 1) improved mental health care knowledge, dealing with depression, as well as mental illnesses, and suicide prevention, 2) improved knowledge of addiction as an illness related to health, 3) improved physical fitness and outdoor free choice time as it relates to health, 4) improved knowledge of the need for vaccinations through education, 5) improved knowledge in nutritional programming, 6) improved knowledge of the importance of dental hygiene (especially as we move towards preventive treatments within the school structure), and 7) improved knowledge of visual assessments that can impede learning.

The training of a 4-year registered nurse would be valuable in an administrative role in the Department of Education. The training and research abilities of a 4-year + School Nurse Specialist can add a much-needed voice, as well as knowledge, towards providing a healthy environment for parents and children.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

Gladstone
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Coordinator

Anne Nesse, RN, K-12 educator (retired)
LWVOR Education Portfolio