



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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.

March 13, 2023

To: Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair

House Behavioral Health Committee

Re: **HB 2544** – Appropriates moneys to Oregon Health Authority for costs related to residential facilities serving individuals with substance use disorders or mental health concerns – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the mental health system should treat adults with alcohol and drug addiction. Services should focus on the recovery of the individual through evidence-based crisis intervention and ongoing support. These services could include alternatives for early intervention, residential services, supportive housing and peer support in sufficient mix and quantity to afford an acceptable quality of life for consumers and their families.

The League supports HB 2544 in the effort to provide alcohol and drug treatment services in a secure residential setting. Services are already available in some larger communities but existing programs require funding for buildings maintenance and consistent staffing. All regions in the state should provide addiction treatment facilities and outpatient resources to their residents. The League recommends state investments in service development for addiction treatment.

Oregon individuals and families are negatively impacted by substance abuse. Treatment resources will contribute to the restored health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Nibler".

Karen Nibler
Social Policy