



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.

April 1, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Reynolds, Vice-Chair Rep. Nguyen, Vice-Chair Rep. Scharf, and
Members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Re: **HB 3198** – Establishes Early Literacy Success Initiative Statewide – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the US supports equal opportunity for high quality education for all students from early childhood through community college. We work actively to educate ourselves and the community about innovations in education as well as financing for education.

The professional teachers of Oregon, their classified staff, parents, and volunteers have always worked diligently on teaching reading literacy to the best of their abilities. However, the task of teaching reading to a class of 19-25 students in the public schools, all from differing backgrounds and cultures, can be overwhelming. Each child is an individual and comes to the public school with differing experiences in knowledge of storytelling, English letter sounds, phonics knowledge, and handwriting skills.

Our state has now realized the need to address these differences in how individual children are learning to read and help our teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers with funding for tutoring and best practice methods of reading instruction. The League of Women Voters of Oregon applauds this effort.

Education is the foundation of democracy. Reading is the first step a child takes in understanding all learning for the rest of their lives. And we all rely on reading literacy for the intelligent judgement it requires to actively participate in the electoral process.

Thank you to all of the bipartisan sponsors of this significant legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Nesse".

Anne Nesse
Education and Early Childhood Portfolio