



*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.*

February 5, 2024

To: **Chair Rep. Neron, Vice-Chair Rep. Hudson, Vice-Chair Rep. Wright, and Committee Members Rep. Cramer, Rep. McIntire, Rep. Nguyen, and Rep. Valderrama, [House Education Committee](#)**

Re: **[HB 4079](#) – Special Education moneys percentage cap removal–Support**

[HB 4079](#) would remove the percentage cap on special education funds distributed to school districts and add weight of funding to school districts with a high percentage of homeless students. The League of Women Voters of Oregon position advocates that the state should provide sufficient funds to give each child an equal and adequate education. The LWVOR also supports aid to children at risk: including children with difficulties concerning food access, nutrition, and affordable, safe, and stable housing.

Children with varying abilities who require special education are distributed unevenly across school districts in our state. And some school districts have a higher access to funding, based on property tax funding, general wealth in their school districts, and larger or smaller private foundations. This of course makes it more difficult for some districts to meet the needs of those eligible for special education, as well as for all the students in their school districts. Therefore the former percentage cap for special education funding distributed to school districts from the State School Fund is no longer valid.

This Bill also designates assigning more funding weight to school districts with higher percentages of homeless students. It is clear that homeless students and their families are at high risk of experiencing difficulties concerning food access, proper nutrition, and affordable, safe, and stable housing.

Each child deserves an equal and adequate education, and some children require greater resources to thrive. We urge your support for HB 4079.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
Co-President LWVOR

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

Anne Nesse  
Education Portfolio