



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 3, 2026

To: **Rep Ben Bowman, Chair, House Committee on Rules**

Re: **HB 4143** – Relating to federal payments withheld, violating court orders – **Comment**

House bill 4143 provides a legal recourse, currently lacking, to the state of Oregon for payment lapses or absence of federal funding, unlawfully withheld, in violation of court orders. The League lacks a position on withholding federal payments. Citing relevant clauses of our positions, the League of Women Voters believes that:

- No person or group shall suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination. It is likely we haven't cited this before to defend Oregonians from denial of customarily paid federal funds.
- Efficient and economical government requires clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- Responsible government should share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, [and] promote a sound economy.

The Legislative Fiscal Office reports¹ that Oregon's 2025-2027 biennial budget anticipated \$43.7 billion in federal funds. We verified accuracy with the OR DoJ staff, with respect to this bill's relevant cases. We find that missing federal funding reflects a budget gap, by subtracting \$4.6B from \$43.7B, of 10.5%.

We share from [yesterday's LWVOR Legislative Report](#):

The Oregon Attorney General has filed 53 lawsuits in the last year, winning an overwhelming majority of them, safeguarding \$4.6B for Oregon (not including a tariff case). For example, because FEMA funding suddenly stopped, a winning suit protected \$128M funding for 29 BRIC (building resilient infrastructure and communities) projects, predominantly rural. Legal action cost less than \$20K, a tremendous ROI, return on investment.

All kinds of withheld federal funding have recently been litigated.² The League is entering this session by warning that, given the gravity of our revenue volatility and shortfall, we urge having eyes open to think creatively and to reconsider options, repeatedly found in taboo in Oregon.

We urge your thoughtful consideration for HB 4143.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Rebecca Gladstone
Governance Co-Coordinator

¹ LFO Legislative Fiscal Office Budget Information Brief / 2025=2 searched Feb 2, 2026

[https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2025-2%20LAB%20Summary%202025-](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2025-2%20LAB%20Summary%202025-27.pdf#:~:text=On%20June%2027%2C%202025%2C%20the%20Oregon%20Legislature,increase%20over%20the%202025%2D27%20current%20service%20level.)

[27.pdf#:~:text=On%20June%2027%2C%202025%2C%20the%20Oregon%20Legislature,increase%20over%20the%202025%2D27%20current%20service%20level.](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2025-2%20LAB%20Summary%202025-27.pdf#:~:text=On%20June%2027%2C%202025%2C%20the%20Oregon%20Legislature,increase%20over%20the%202025%2D27%20current%20service%20level.)

[27.pdf#:~:text=On%20June%2027%2C%202025%2C%20the%20Oregon%20Legislature,increase%20over%20the%202025%2D27%20current%20service%20level.](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2025-2%20LAB%20Summary%202025-27.pdf#:~:text=On%20June%2027%2C%202025%2C%20the%20Oregon%20Legislature,increase%20over%20the%202025%2D27%20current%20service%20level.)