



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-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.

March 16, 2017

To: [Senate Committee on Education](#)
Chair, Senator Arnie Roblan

[SB 746](#) Establishes Superintendent of Public Instruction as statewide elected office.

[SB 649](#) Provides for selection of Superintendent of Public Instruction

by a new State Board of Education under proposed [SJR 37](#) **Comment re both bills' concepts**

LWV believes the state should provide sufficient funds to give each child an equal, adequate education. Apart from state mandates, local control of the educational programs should be maintained. A stable state system for financing public schools is crucial for long range planning.

While SB 746 and SB 649 envision substantially different compositions of a State Board of Education and the election or appointment of a Superintendent of Public Instruction, both bills imply that a greater degree of citizen input and local control is desired.

LWVOR neither supports nor opposes either of these bills; both would result in complex changes with intended and unintended consequences that should be further explored before becoming law. LWVOR urges the **Senate Committee on Education** and the **House Committee on Education** to jointly facilitate a workgroup of stakeholders to consider the concepts proposed in each of these bills while also comparing/contrasting these two proposals with the current Education system where the Governor serves as top elected education official in Oregon. Our current system has both positive and negative aspects, as do both of these bills. Further study, beyond the scope of a legislative public hearing, is needed.

LWVOR supports an Oregon Education governance body that:

- maintains a seamless overview approach of pre-school through college/CTE training
- considers both urban and rural school district priorities allowing the greatest level of local control
- prioritizes services through an equity lens that considers historically underserved populations, including students of color and those living in poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator

Cc: [House Committee on Education](#) Chair, Representative Margaret Doherty