March 13, 2017

To: House Committee on Rules  
    Jennifer Williamson, Chair

Re: HB 2871 – study effective voter registration, not in English—SUPPORT

For the record, my name is Rebecca Gladstone. I am speaking on behalf of the LWVOR as First Vice President in charge of Voter Services and Education, Governance Advocacy Coordinator, as a League representative in the Minority Languages Voting Materials Task Force (Report) convened in 2014, and as Editor of our League VOTEResources, including Spanish Voters’ Guides.

The League consistently supports improving access to voting. One of our priority positions this session is protecting democracy by promoting more representative elections systems. This bill would improve voting access for Oregonians.

We value Oregon’s legacy of being proactive in anticipating needs of our people, in this case, anticipating growth of our minority populations, both by absolute size and relative density. Note, these are listed by Oregon county in the Task Force report. We support being prepared before these growing communities achieve the thresholds outlined in Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act and before Oregon will be required to act.

We urge your support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR Governance Coordinator