



**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 23, 2017

To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports
Chair, Representative Lively

Re: [HB 3087](#) Creates family and medical leave insurance program to provide covered employee with portion of wages while on family medical leave or military leave. **Support**

The League supports programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. The League supports policies, programs, and funding at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 3087. The League has supported similar legislation since 2007. The ability of employees and employers to equitably respond to the health care needs of employees' families is an essential piece to the economic well-being of Oregon's workforce. Currently, employees are eligible to take UNPAID leave, but the reality is that many families cannot afford the loss of income; they must choose between caring for the sick and paying the rent.

HB 3087 creates a self-funding insurance program requiring payroll contributions not to exceed 0.5 percent of employee wages to be paid by employers and employees. It permits up to twelve weeks of benefits per year and an additional six weeks of benefits for parental leave; requiring 30 days' notice to the employer before commencing leave. The creation of the Family Leave Benefits Insurance Program would assist workers who need to care for themselves or family members.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in cursive.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Chris Vogel in cursive.

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator