



**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 14, 2017

To: House Committee on Health Care
Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair

Re: **HB 3391** – Reproductive Health Equity Act – **Support**

The League of Women Voters believes that public policy must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. Throughout the years, volunteers of the League of Women Voters have worked hard to assure that all individuals have the right to comprehensive reproductive health care services. Our policy position affirms, “the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices...for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.” HB 3391 does just that.

HB 3391, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, establishes comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services — including family planning, abortion and postpartum care — for all Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance.

Affordable and accessible reproductive services are essential for women, families and public health. That includes our LGBT families, transgender persons, and all people regardless of their citizenship status. Many Oregonians currently lack these services, and with the likely repeal of the Affordable Care Act, these services are at risk for all women. Postpartum care is denied to many mothers, even though we know how important the health of the mother is for the growing newborn. Several health plans limit the range of contraceptives they cover; some “grandfathered” plans still charge copays for routine reproductive health screenings; and our transgendered Oregonians face significant obstacles to receiving the full range of services required. HB 3391 addresses these and several more barriers to reproductive health care.

Restrictions on reproductive health care have harmful effects, not just on individuals and families, but on communities and public health. This legislation ensures that all Oregonians are not only able to decide if and when to have children, but are assured the full range of comprehensive reproductive health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. We urge you to support HB 3391.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in blue ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Debbie Runciman in blue ink.

Debbie Runciman
LWVOR Women's Issues Portfolio