



**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 15, 2017

To: Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
Sen. Steiner Haywood, Co-Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair

Re: **HB 5026** – Oregon Health Authority Budget – **Comments**

The LWV has a national position to promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

The Oregon League has appreciated the work of the Oregon Legislature in the last four biennia in establishing the Oregon Health Authority and reforms based on data collection. HB 3650 initiated the integrated and coordinated health care delivery system. The reported metrics from the Coordinated Care Organizations have shown improvements in health care at lower costs. The League supports efforts to maintain the CCOs as cost effective delivery systems for Medicaid clients throughout the state.

The League is concerned about the federal participation in the continuation of Medicaid support and insurance subsidies. Our concern is that the loss of health coverage will be a life and death matter. The League supports continued state funding for the expansion programs but realizes there is a revenue shortage this session. The League encourages the development of revenue resources for essential health programs, including public health community services. Preventive services are cost effective and the lack of them can cost the health system much more later.

Mental Health treatment has improved at the Oregon State Hospital, but there are still many crisis and support needs in the communities. The League supports continued investments at the local level. The state has already invested in the Junction City Hospital and that resource could be used for mentally ill inmates from state or local correctional facilities. The transfer of some inmates could relieve the pressure to open a new women's facility. That resource should be utilized and staff retained for treatment of Oregon residents who need treatment in secure custody. Closure of that hospital would be an expense to maintain without the benefit of services to mentally ill patients or inmates. Please consider retaining the hospital services.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
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