



**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.

April 3, 2017

To: Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Sara Gelsler, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair

Re: **SB 242** – Family Preservation Project – **Support**

The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children.

The League supports the Family Preservation Project, which has been operated by the YMCA of Greater Portland in this biennium. We support efforts to have children live with family members and keep in contact with the parents who are under supervision in facilities or in community programs.

The relationship between parents and children are interrupted by arrests and incarceration in jails or in state correctional facilities. It is difficult for children to comprehend the absence of parents for longer periods and causes anxiety in each child. If a parent and child can have visitation in facilities and in release programs, they will do better. Supervised sentences in the home with the children are a new option. These children are at risk of future involvement in the public safety system without constructive family involvement and community support. This should be a very cost effective program in the long run, if it keeps children from following parents into the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in cursive.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler
LWVOR Policy Coordinator