



**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.

May 25, 2017

To: House Committee on Rules
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
Representative Mike McLane, Vice-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Vice-Chair

Re: HB 3078-2 – Eligibility for Family Sentencing Alternative Act – Support

The LWVOR supports alternatives at all stages of the criminal justice process including community based programs through Community Corrections. The League supports the -2 amendments to this bill.

We listened to the hearing in The Ways and Means Subcommittee Capitol Construction on April 21. The Public Safety Work Group conclusions were presented by Lane Shetterly. The proposals included extending short term transitional leave to 120 days, creating a statewide SB 416 program, reducing sentences for Identity Theft and Theft I, continuing Justice Reinvestment grants to counties, and expanding existing work release programs. It was estimated that the state would reduce the need for prison beds by 565 over the next few years and avoid the expense of another women's prison.

Research by the Criminal Justice Commission has shown that the female population can be supervised in the community as long as they're provided with structure and treatment. Many of these women are mothers' of minor children. If they can stay in the community with their children, the state can avoid the cost of substitute care, and the children can be saved from the trauma of separation. The mothers should have the incentive to comply with supervision in order to stay in the community with their children.

When financial resources are so limited for important programs, it is critical to enact legislation that will save the state money now and avoid greater costs in the future. LWVOR urges you to pass 3078 as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Barbara Ross in black ink.

Barbara Ross
LWVOR Adult Corrections Specialist