February 4, 2019

To: Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee  
   Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair  
   Representative Carla Pilluso, Co-Chair

Re: SB 5506 – Criminal Justice Commission Budget – Support

The League of Women Voters has a position on Adult Corrections, which supports the adoption of sentencing guidelines and strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration. The League has been impressed with the work of the Criminal Justice Commission.

The commission has been responsible for overseeing the grants to counties under the Justice Reinvestment Act. These funds have been used by communities to provide services such as housing, addiction treatment, training and job search skills, to persons who would otherwise have been given prison sentences. Many counties have been able to reduce the actual number of persons being sent to prison, giving offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation and saving funds that otherwise would have been spent on expensive prison beds.

In addition to overseeing the Justice Reinvestment grants, the Commission has had a strong focus on data collection. They manage a website that provides updated data on incarceration rates and other measures of program success. This information gives the public, program providers and policy makers an opportunity to see what progress is being made and where adjustments are needed.

This collection and dissemination of accurate data is essential to Oregon’s continued success in changing our Criminal Justice system for the better, without compromising public safety.

The League supports full funding of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Justice Reinvestment Programs, which have proven to be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this legislation.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Barbara Ross  
LWVOR Criminal Justice Portfolio