March 4, 2019

To:  **House Committee on Education**
    Chair Representative Margaret Doherty
    Vice-Chair Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
    Vice-Chair Representative Cheri Helt
    hed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

    **Joint Committee on Student Success**
    Co-Chair Senator Arnie Roblan
    Co-Chair Representative Barbara Smith Warner
    jcss exhibit email

    **Student Success Subcommittee on Early Childhood Education**
    Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick
    Co-Chair Representative John Lively

Re:  **HB 2897** – establishes **Early Childhood Equity Fund** for culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the early years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies, programs, and funding at all levels of the community and government that promote the well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children.

**LWVOR supports HB 2897** to provide outreach, support, and resources to children and families that are underserved by existing programs in this state; children and families who are at risk because of any combination of two or more factors, including their race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status and geographic location. We know that early-intervention programs and those targeted to the most at-risk during the early years pay dividends throughout their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel
Education Policy Coordinator,
LWVOR Legislative Action