March 6, 2019

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

Re: SB 5541 – Oregon Youth Authority Budget – Support

The League of Women Voters has a position on Juvenile Justice that supports services for juvenile offenders in the least restrictive environment and/or treatment oriented secure custody.

The Oregon Youth Authority has managed to consolidate and update their facilities which may help to stay within a reduced budget. Supervision of youth in custody or in the communities requires a trained staff who are consistently available, so reduction of staff levels may be problematic. School and work training programs are also staff intensive but are necessary for the reformation of youth in custody.

The League believes that OYA services can prevent the youth offenders from further law violations and incarceration in the adult system. In that spirit, we encourage passage of a budget that will allow the agency to continue the custody programs and community supervision for the number of youth who have been committed to their care.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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