March 7, 2019

To: House Committee on Judiciary
   Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
   Representative Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair

Re: HB 2625 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women – Support

The League of Women Voters of United States has had a position on Equal Rights regardless of sex since the 1970 federal Equal Rights Amendment. Equal rights under the law include public safety and protections against violence. Indigenous people are American citizens who should be protected under federal law.

If Indian women are subjected to violence, they should have equal protections under the law and equal prosecutions for violence against them. The League is appalled to learn that indigenous women are not protected and crimes against them are not prosecuted. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the request for a study by the Oregon State Police with the goal of increasing protective and investigative resources for indigenous women.

The League considers this request to be a high priority for the attention of the state police forces and the coordination of services with the tribal members.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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