



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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.

March 26, 2019

To: [House Committee On Judiciary](#)
Chair House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson
Vice-Chair Representative Chris Gorsek
Vice-Chair Representative Sherrie Sprenger

Re: [HB 2562](#) – Title IX enforcement and compliance, sexual harassment prevention and gender discrimination prevention – **Support**

The League believes that governments at all levels share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Presently the State Title IX Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Education overseeing Title IX enforcement and prevention of gender-based harassment and discrimination in all of our K-12 schools represents only ¼ time or .25 FTE. Understandably, the one .25 FTE ODE Title IX Coordinator does not have sufficient time to answer all the questions that school-based Title IX Coordinators have.

The League supports [HB 2562](#) for funding for at least two full time Title IX Coordinators at the OR Department of Education to strengthen statewide guidance about how to handle gender-based harassment, bullying or assault complaints.

With a growing awareness that social and emotional supports may reduce suicides and increase school attendance, it is alarming to know that 6.9% of 8th graders and 5.7% of 11th graders said they had been bullied at or on the way to school with unwanted sexual comments or attention and 6.1% of 8th graders and 2.8% of 11th graders said they had been bullied because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M. Vogel".

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator