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.

Norman Turrill  
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