February 3, 2020

To: House Committee On Education
   Chair, Representative Margaret Doherty
   Vice-Chair, Representative Teresa Alonso Leon

Re: HB 4132 – Student Health Surveys – Support

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. These include: early screening (physical, dental, mental, and behavioral) for all children; and ongoing health care for children (physical, mental, dental).

LWVOR supports HB 4132 to have the Oregon Health Authority in consultation with the Department of Education administer student health surveys of adolescents that assess physical, mental, emotional and social factors, including school climate, that impact adolescents’ health, well-being and educational achievement. We appreciate the plan for meaningfully engaging adolescents in creating and revising the surveys and interpreting the survey data; and consulting with school teachers and administrators, youth-related organizations and the federally recognized tribes in Oregon to improve the content of the surveys and the process of administering the surveys. Additionally, we support responsiveness to the cultural needs of communities participating in the surveys.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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Bill sponsors:

Representative Smith Warner, McLain, Salinas, Neron, Senator Wagner
Representative Alonso Leon, Hernandez, Holvey, Lively, Meek, Mitchell, Nosse, Piluso,
Prusak, Sanchez, Schouten, Sollman, Williams, Senator Gelser, Monnes Anderson, Roblan, Taylor