February 10, 2020

To:    House Judiciary
       Representative Tawna Sanchez, Chair
       Representative Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chair
       Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair

Re:   HB 4148 – Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act – Support

The League believes that The State of Oregon should provide access to its courts that meets the diverse needs of all people who use the state courts. The federal Indian Child Welfare Act law should be codified into the State of Oregon laws to include the rights and protections for the Indian population.

The League recognizes that there have been cases where the state law has not covered the rights of Indian children and young adults. The Indian population resided in Oregon long before the European and other nationalities moved into Oregon. They are entitled to full participation in the legal system.

The League supports the codification of the Oregon Child Welfare laws to conform with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The League commends Representative Sanchez for this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone                Karen Nibler
LWVOR President                 LWVOR Social Policy Coordinator