



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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.*

February 5, 2020

To: [Senate Human Services](#)  
Senator Sara Gelser, Chair

Re: [SB 1566](#) – Modifies Oregon Promise Program and Child Welfare Rules – **Comments**

The League has positions on Children at Risk, which states that the League supports policies and programs that promote the full development and ensure the safety of all children.

The League recognizes that the Department of Human Services has the responsibility to take custody of abused children and supervise their placement in safe homes or facilities. The placement of children in homes or facilities in their own communities where they can continue in the same schools would be ideal. However, we recognize that foster homes are difficult to find and some children are more comfortable in a group home setting. Oregon children should remain in state close to family and friends and should be eligible for in-state programs. Oregon should develop in-state residential programs or group homes to provide in-state treatment for our children. This expertise exists in Oregon.

The League supports the modification of the Oregon Child Welfare laws to reflect best current practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Nibler".

Karen Nibler  
LWVOR Social Policy Coordinator