

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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 20, 2025

To: Chair Courtney Neron, Vice Chairs April Dobson and Emily McIntire, and Representatives Darin Harbick, Zach Hudson, Hoa Nguyen, Ricki Ruiz, and Boomer Wright, House Committee on Education

Re: HB 3039 – Directs ODE to study ways to increase summer and after-school programs – Comment

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports with comment for HB 3039 and its -1 amendment which appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Education Requires the Department of Education to study methods for increasing the availability of summer and after-school academic and enrichment programs.

LWVOR believes that the State of Oregon should support after-school and summer learning and affirmed, "that child care is a social and economic issue that reaches beyond the family into the community. Quality child care needs to be available, accessible and affordable to all families for children of all ages and with differing needs."

This position was reaffirmed and expanded to include after-school and summer care in the 2023 League study conducted that reported "An effective childcare system benefits the entire economy." Research shows that "out-of-school-time (OST) programs influence the participants' success academically and in future careers. The programs even benefit future generations. The investment is worth it." The study further noted that "Success for all participants depends on assuring the content and quality of service. Delivery should have goals, guidelines, and oversight to promote continuing process improvement."

LWVOR believes that Oregon should provide subsidized and stable funding for after-school and summer programs that include education, enrichment, and experiential learning.

We would like to ask for an amendment to HB 3039 that includes continued and expanded support for separate after-school hours care that is differentiated from summer school.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein

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Acting President LWVOR

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After School and Summer Care

CC: Representative Julie Fahey, Senator Janeen Sollman, Charlene Williams, Director, Oregon Department of Education