



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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 26, 2019

To: **House Committee On Education**
Chair Representative Margaret Doherty
Vice-Chair Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Vice-Chair Representative Cheri Helt
hed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: School Meals ([HB 2760](#)) and Breakfast after the Bell ([HB 2765](#)) – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has studies and consensus Positions that say:

- The early years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life.
- 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—this includes nutrition and food access for vulnerable children and families.

Students who eat breakfast at school are more likely to perform better, have better attendance, and graduate. [HB 2765](#) removes scheduling barriers to accessing school breakfast for students and aligns the timing of school breakfast with the start of the school day, especially in high-poverty schools.

One in three kids living in food insecure households doesn't qualify for school meals. Oregon has the opportunity with [HB 2760](#) to become the first state in the nation to offer healthy, tasty school meals to all children at no charge. Evidence presented elsewhere in this hearing will document that for the 340 schools in Oregon currently offering universal school meals, it creates conditions where students are more likely to succeed.. Students are more likely to eat breakfast and lunch at school when the stigma of free/reduced lunch is removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Christine M. Vogel in black ink.

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Policy Coordinator for Education