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March 14, 2019

To: Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee  
Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair  
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair

Re: **SB 5525** – Oregon Health Authority Budget – **Support**

The LWVUS has a national position to promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

The Oregon League has observed the development of the Oregon Health Authority for the last ten years and has appreciated the health policy, analytics and program development over that time. The growth in the expansion population has added more responsibilities and opportunities to provide care for Oregon residents. We are impressed with the agency and insurance leaders' cooperation in the functioning of health care delivery and the effort to stay within a 3.4% growth target.

The funding for the health care system is a public priority for the League and its members. Other resources are still needed to fully fund health services through the biennium. Cigarette or tobacco taxes are presumed to increase, but vaping substances should be taxed too. Wine and beer taxes can be increased as well as shared marijuana revenues. Another option is a tax on beverages containing sugar, which can cause health care needs. This could be collected like the bottle tax. The League encourages the Committee to continue to consider all options for financing the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Nibler". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen Nibler  
LWVOR Social Policy Coordinator