



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 25, 2025

To: Chair [Rep. Rob Nosse](#), Vice Chairs [Rep. Cyrus Javadi](#) and [Rep. Travis Nelson](#)  
and members of the [House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care](#)

Re: [\*\*HB 2059\*\*](#) – Behavioral Health Facilities – Support

HB 2059 aims to increase residential behavioral health capacity throughout the state. The bill intends to increase the number of beds at withdrawal management facilities, residential treatment facilities, and inpatient psychiatric facilities.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the bill (with the -2 amendment) because it is consistent with the US League's positions on behavioral health care:

**The League believes all residents should have access to affordable, quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care. The League supports regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities, and equipment, and believes in the equitable distribution of these resources.**

Oregon is in dire need of more behavioral health residential treatment beds. A [2024 study](#), commissioned by the Oregon Health Authority, concluded that the state currently has 4,033 beds and needs an additional 3,714 beds to meet the behavioral health needs of Oregonians. Among the facility types, the needs are especially acute for patients with Substance Use Disorder. Out of a total of 4,033 beds needed, the study projected 2,357 beds will be required for SUD residential facilities.

The consequences of this shortage are evident not only in our streets but in our acute care hospitals. Behavioral health patients end up boarding in emergency rooms while awaiting transfer to an appropriate facility. Oregon State Hospital has been over capacity due to “aid and assist” patients from the criminal justice system, creating further bottlenecks in the system. The lack of behavioral health beds is not only devastating for individual patients but has negative impacts across Oregon’s healthcare system. LWVOR appreciates that the -2 amendment specifies an appropriation of \$90 million.

We urge your Support for HB 2059.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein  
Acting President LWVOR

Jean Pierce  
Action Committee

Stephanie Aller  
Behavioral Health