



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 103-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.*

January 31, 2023

To: House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee

Representative Lisa Reynolds, Chair

Representative Hoa Nguyen

Representative Anna Scharf

Re: HB [2454](#) and HB [2456](#) –Relating to appropriations for programs for youth experiencing homelessness. **Support**

In the 2020 Legislative Session, The League submitted a letter on HB 4039 on Runaway and Homeless Youth Services. The League of Women Voters had published a study in February of 2007 and followed up with attention to the development of services. Although the Department of Human Services has developed a Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program and distributed funds to Oregon programs for youth, the level of funding has not been sufficient to provide consistent funding for existing and newly established programs to meet the needs of homeless youth in the state.

While we have appreciated the establishment of the programs in DHS, the funding level does not meet the need for youth separated from their families. In some of these situations, the families have lost their housing and teenage youth have searched for options as individuals. The League supports funding for families with school age children to prevent the dissolution of the family as well as individual home placements and shelters for teens.

The League believes that each region in the state should provide a youth shelter for those teens and young adults living apart from families. Teens are often comfortable and safe in group shelters. The Host Homes are also a good option for teens and young adults to provide stability while they complete their educations and/or job training. These teens are more likely to be self-supporting as adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

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

Karen Nibler  
LWVOR Social Policy