

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-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 6, 2018

To: <u>Senate Committee On Education</u> Chair, Senator Arnie Roblan Vice-Chair, Senator Dennis Linthicum <u>sed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

Re: <u>SB 1563</u> – Undocumented students need not apply for federal identification document – Support

League supports a federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry of immigrants into the United States, including the DREAM ACT.

Unfortunately, Dreamers and other similar undocumented immigrant youth wishing to attend college are facing huge barriers, through no fault of their own. LWVOR supports SB 1563 because it removes a requirement that students, who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents, apply for official federal identification document to be eligible for exemption from paying nonresident tuition at public universities; permits public universities, and community colleges to provide scholarships and other financial aid to students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents; and permits colleges to exempt from paying nonresident tuition students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents. These young adults should not face barriers in education and livable wages. Federal immigration policy may change and could prevent college attendance for some students by fall of 2018 without the protection of this bill, which separates federal DACA identification requirements from the relationship between Oregon students and schools. We should uphold HB 2787, the 2013 tuition equity bill, and urge support of SB 1563.

LWVOR understands that language in this bill might need to be tightened in an amendment. We believe that this bill is intended to apply to young adults brought to the United States as children, by their parents. It is not the intention of this bill to provide scholarships and other financial aid to students who were raised as children in other countries. We see the intention of this legislation is directed to Dreamers and similar youth who could have applied for Dreamer status, but did not, due to fear or other potential negative ramifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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