



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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 5, 2020

To: House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Chair

Re: [HB 4131](#) - Relating to the Family Preservation Project – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports HB 4131, authorizing the continued funding of the Family Preservation Project (FPP) at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Our positions related to adult corrections, children at risk, and mental health are in alignment with the project's goals, and we have closely followed its progress since its creation.

We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm of participants and their strong advocacy for FPP's continuation. We have heard firsthand accounts that the program is a lifeline for the women inmates as well as their children, and there is clear evidence that the benefits of maintaining family connections are many—the reduction of trauma, the reduction of recidivism, and the breaking of the generational cycle of incarceration.

The YWCA has a proven track record for implementing FPP, and sufficient, stable funding will go a long way toward making this a model program that Oregon can be proud of. The array of children's services listed in the bill shows an in-depth understanding of the comprehensive nature of what is needed to overcome the trauma of family separation and disfunction.

The relating-to clause on this bill declares an emergency, and we believe this is truly the case. It is an emergency when the parent-child bond is lost, and children suffer the trauma of their parents' incarceration. It is an emergency when there is a lack of intervention in the generational cycle of incarceration. FPP provides that intervention when it is needed most. Therefore, the League strongly urges your support for HB 4131 and the continuation of the Family Preservation Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley  
LWVOR Action Committee