



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.

March 8, 2021

To: [Senate Education Committee](#)

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Senator Chuck Thomsen, Vice-Chair

Re: [SB 235 Access to Online Education - Support](#)

The League of Women Voters has a position on Adult Corrections which states LWVOR believes that a full range of correctional programs should exist for adult offenders. The League favors prison programs which provide educational and vocational training, opportunities for meaningful work and adequate medical and mental health care.

This proposed bill asks the Department of Corrections to plan for online access to adult basic skill development, professional and technical education and higher education programs for inmates in the Department of Corrections.

The League strongly supports providing access to educational programs for inmates in correctional facilities, which could provide an incentive to improve mental abilities and gain skills for employability when released from custody. The online educational programs would be a constructive use of mental attention and time while incarcerated and may lead to improved behavior and mental health.

The funding of the online connection and equipment for educational programs should result in improved employment and decreased recidivism for parolees when they return to communities. Fewer parole violations and revocations can reduce costs to the correctional system in the future, a benefit from this investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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