



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 30, 2021

To: [Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health And Recovery](#)  
Committee Chair, Sen. Sara Gelsler

Re: [SB 718](#) – Funding to Refugee NGO’s – **Support**

[In 2020 LWVOR and LWVUS passed](#) the following resolution at their council and convention.

*‘Be it resolved the League of Women Voters reaffirms our commitment to Immigration reform: laws that provide efficient, expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States. The League stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community. Congress must take immediate action to pass common sense, fair immigration policies that end the crisis at our borders, end the separation of families, ensure their health and safety, and provide a clear path to citizenship which includes the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) young people’.*

In addition, in June 2020, LWV U.S. voted to support EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) work internal to the League and across all public and private sectors.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports \$4.3M funding to refugee resettlement agencies outlined in the bill which includes \$600K funding for an employment service provider. We understand given the recent Federal CARES Act funding this will not be a difficult decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss SB 718 and we urge your favorable consideration of it.

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

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claudia Keith'.

Claudia Escobar Keith  
LWVOR Immigration & Refugee Portfolio

CC:

Bill Chief Sponsors:

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