



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.

February 8, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Co-Chairs Senator Lieber and Representative Nosse
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB 5024** – OHA Budget – **POP 417** Environmental Public Health Program – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by allocating medical resources to underserved areas....

There are a number of programs within this massive budget that meet LWV positions and for which we may speak in the future. Today we focus on the Environmental Public Health Modernization program and POP 417. As stated in the Governor’s one-pager: “Complex environmental public health problems require a nimble, community-based and equity-centered public health system.”

We all know that Oregon’s public health system has been strained by the need to address Covid-19. These county programs are critical to Oregonians’ health. By also addressing the risks by the rapidly accelerating change in our climate and those affects on our most vulnerable, this investment will provide opportunities to plan for the expected environmental hazards and will allow the agency’s public health division to engage those most affected by these serious hazards. Wildfires, extreme heat, flooding, air and water pollution are but a small list of the burdens felt by these communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. **We ask for your support for POP 417.**

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