



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 19, 2021

To: [House Committee On Behavioral Health](#)
Chair, Representative Tawna Sanchez
Vice-Chair, Representative Raquel Moore-Green
Vice-Chair, Representative Rob Nosse

Re: [HB 3037](#) –Directs medical examiner to report suspected suicides involving decedents 24 years of age or younger to local mental health authority – **Support**

LWVUS supports efforts to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, to promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans and equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. LWV is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[HB 3037](#) directs a medical examiner to report suspected suicides involving decedents 24 years of age or younger to the local mental health authority; directs Oregon Health Authority to develop statewide suicide post-intervention protocol; authorizes cross-reporting between local mental health authorities.

We direct your attention to compelling testimony from [Multnomah County](#) and [Lane County](#) home of the University of Oregon. The majority (~75%) of suicide deaths that occur in this population in Oregon are 19-24. Nineteen to twenty-four-year-olds often do not live at their home of record and may die away from home. It is important Community Mental Health Program Directors have the legislative authority to contact the local mental health authority in other areas when a student dies so they can be informed, care for the bereaved, and limit additional suicides.

On the earlier scale of identification and prevention you may know that the [Senate Committee on Education](#) is hearing [SB 236](#) to eliminate expulsion of toddlers and children in early childhood programs and childcare. National data shows that Black children, Native children, and children who experience disabilities have higher rates of suicide and greater difficulty staying in school and graduating. Frequently these statistics are reflected in youth suicides in high school and college age students. There is a great need for trauma-informed, evidence-based, and culturally mediated procedures for suicide prevention and intervention.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Coordinator

Bill Walsh
LWVOR Healthcare Portfolio

CC [Senate Committee on Education](#)
Chair, Senator Michael Dembrow
Vice-Chair, Senator Chuck Thomsen