



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-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.

To: House Committee On Education
Chair Rep. Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Committee

Re: **HB 4124** – Requires Department of Education to conduct survey related to assessments administered to students by school districts and to develop recommendations and best practices related to assessments. - **SUPPORT**

Directs department to report results of survey and recommendations and best practices to State Board of Education and to Interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to education no later than May 1, 2024. Requires department and board to review standards related to disclosure and transfer of information in student education records. Directs department to report results of review to board and to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2023.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. The League believes that governments at all levels share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Administering assessments to students is **expensive** to school districts in terms of both **lost instructional time**, and **loss of monetary funds** for both our state and our local school district budgets. While at the same time, it is widely recognized by research that comparison of individual assessment scores in the K-12 age groups, do not necessarily indicate a failure of the public school system, or the individual student's total abilities as a potentially successful individual in the world of work. Individuals mature and develop along differing paths, and paper and pencil evaluations, at many ages, and on any given day, have limited validity.

HB 4124 presents an opportunity for the Oregon Department of Education to survey **best practices** in our use of assessments, to assure teacher's and student's best use of instructional time. **If our goal is equality of opportunity in education**, it is essential to understand that education is a lifelong process. Successful assessments in the K-12 grade levels may be as varied as teacher recommendations, portfolio student work accomplishments, as well as **best practices** paper and pencil tests.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Anne Nesse in black ink.

Anne Nesse
LWVOR Education Portfolio