



*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.*

February 7, 2022

To: [House Committee on Health Care](#)  
Rep. Rachel Prusak, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair  
Rep. Andrea Salinas, Vice Chair

Re: [HB 4045](#) – Grant program for community violence prevention – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 4045, which directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish community violence prevention programs and approve a national training and certification program for violence prevention professionals. We have a long-standing position in support of the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior and in the allocation of public monies toward that goal.

Since violence has many facets, we are pleased to see that grant funding would be allocated to both hospitals and community organizations for the development of prevention and intervention services, including substance abuse treatment, conflict resolution, domestic violence prevention, youth and gang intervention, housing stability, and the training of intervention specialists.

We believe that policing alone cannot solve the problem of violence in our communities. It also takes a community-based commitment such as this, led by professionals who are specifically trained in using evidence-based and trauma-informed prevention and intervention strategies. We are proud to see that Oregon is in the forefront of nationwide efforts and that the bill designates the Oregon Health Authority to approve a national training and certification program for certified violence prevention professionals.

Since the start of the pandemic, the nation has seen a significant spike in violence, and this has been the case in Oregon as well. Fear and trauma, along with a huge increase in the purchase of firearms, has meant more suicides, more domestic violence cases, and more shootings. The ripple effect of violence affects all of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation, and we urge passage of HB 4045.

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

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley  
LWVOR Action Committee