



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 8, 2022

To: [Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation](#)
[Senator Floyd Prozanski](#), Chair

Re: [SB1543](#) – Universal Representation Program – **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 and LWV Oregon provided at LWVUS convention an education caucus ['Climate Migration, Immigration and Human Rights: What You Need to Know! - LWVUS Convention 2020.](#)

Funding: Total \$15 million Arpa/General Fund: There will be an ongoing fund with \$4.5 million to the Oregon Justice Department (to distribute funds to the Oregon State Bar) and \$10.5 million to the Department of Administrative Services (to distribute funds to the Oregon Worker Relief Fund). There will be no matching fund. Unlike in criminal court, undocumented immigrants facing deportation in civil immigration court are not guaranteed access to an attorney. Access to an attorney is one of the most important factors into determining whether an immigrant will defeat their unjust deportation. Deportation destabilizes families, disrupts the economy, reduces high school graduation rates, and increases our reliance on child and social welfare programs. This budget request would help stop unlawful deportations and detentions, build stability, and create pathways to work authorization and economic participation for immigrants and refugees, enable family unification, and incentivize legal talent to stay within Oregon through partnerships with 3 law schools

A recent report from [NCSL on](#) immigration speaks to this and a number other immigration and refugee topics..

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss SB 1543 and we urge your favorable consideration of it.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith
LWVOR Social Policy
Immigration & Refugee Portfolio