



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 103-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 23, 2023

To: [Representative Jason Kropf](#), Chair  
[House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 2731](#) – Establishment of Family Preservation Project Pilot Program – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports HB 2131, authorizing the establishment of the Family Preservation Project (FPP) at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility under the auspices of the Oregon Justice Commission (OJC) and the Department of Corrections. Our positions related to adult corrections, children at risk, and mental health are in alignment with the project's goals, and we have closely followed FPP's progress since its creation.

We reiterate our 2020 testimony on HB 4131 that we find clear evidence the program has become a lifeline for the women inmates as well as their children. The benefits of maintaining family connections are many—the reduction of trauma, the reduction of recidivism, and the breaking of the generational cycle of incarceration.

The YWCA has a proven track record for implementing FPP, and sufficient, stable funding and the backing of OJC and other state agencies will go a long way toward ensuring the continuation of this model program that Oregon should be justly proud of. The array of services listed in the bill shows an in depth understanding of the comprehensive nature of what is needed to overcome the trauma of family separation and disfunction. We are pleased that the bill includes a quarterly check-in with OJC and other state agencies, the submission of a biennial report to the Legislature on FPP's progress, and a sunset date that allows the program sufficient time to flourish before renewal.

The relating-to clause on this bill declares an emergency, and we believe this is truly the case. It is an emergency when the parent-child bond is lost, and children suffer the trauma of their parents' incarceration. It is an emergency when there is a lack of intervention in the generational cycle of incarceration. FPP provides that intervention when it is needed most. Therefore, the League strongly urges your support for HB 2731 and the official establishment of the Family Preservation Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

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

Marge Easley  
LWVOR Action Committee