



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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.

March 8, 2023

To: [Chair Mark Meek](#), [Vice Chair Brian Boquist](#), [Senator Lynn Findley](#), [Senator Jeff Golden](#),
[Senator Kayse Jama](#)

Re: [SB 858](#) – Children’s Service Districts – **Support**

This bill will allow citizens to sign initiative petitions in their area to support property tax funding of children’s services; e.g., afterschool and summer programs. The League has been working on child care issues for many years, including its 1988 position and its 2023 updated child care report.

These are the issues related to the bill as we see them now. Participation in out-of-school-time programs (early learning, after school, and summer) are known to increase academic and lifelong success. These programs are underfunded, particularly for after school and summer and usually children can only participate if their families pay associated fees. Passage of local property tax initiatives would subsidize funding for low-income families. In Oregon, the only people who can put property tax initiatives on the ballot are City Councils or County Commissioners. Citizens cannot file for these initiatives. This measure would allow citizens to initiate ballot initiatives to benefit children’s services that could be signed by voters. It does not allocate funds. Initiatives would need to be passed to generate funds that would be allocated by an elected special district board.

Based on our position cited here, we recommend passage of this bill.

We urge your Support of SB 858.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Riley".

Katie Riley
LWVOR Action Committee

Cc: [Senator James Manning](#), Chief Sponsor
[Senator Sarah Gelser Blouin](#), Chief Sponsor
[Senator William Hansell](#), Sponsor
[Senator Deborah Patterson](#), Sponsor