



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.

March 28, 2023

To: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
[Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [SB 1070](#) – Sentence reduction for domestic abuse survivors – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports SB 1070 based on our view that judges should be given leeway in determining length of sentences and be allowed to consider mitigating factors when doing so. SB 1070 is a much-needed change to Oregon’s sentencing laws, because it requires courts to consider evidence of domestic violence when making sentencing determinations.

According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, “Research shows that the overwhelming majority of women defendants in the criminal justice system have extensive histories of childhood and adult abuse that may result in homelessness, substance abuse and economic marginality that force them into survival by illegal means.” If the aim of our criminal justice system is to move toward greater fairness in sentencing, then it must include consideration of the impacts of the trauma inflicted by domestic violence.

The League is grateful for the work of the Oregon Justice Resource Center and Portland State University’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice for their 2018 Herstory Oregon Survey of 140 incarcerated women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, for bringing greater attention to this issue, and for advocating for reform. Their work shows the power of data in understanding the root causes of incarceration in order to bring about change. It is our hope that projects such as this continue to move us toward a more humane criminal justice system.

We urge passage of SB 1070 and thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on 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