



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.

May 10, 2023

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

[Chair Paul Holvey and Committee Members](#)

Re: [SB907](#)—The Right of Non-Retaliation for Refusing Dangerous Work—Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports the clarification of the right for employees to refuse dangerous work with protection from retaliation. The LWVOR stands on the fundamental position of the League of Women Voters: “Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans.” LWVOR has particularly expressed concern for the rights of agricultural workers for many years because those rights are treated as inferior to other workers under labor laws and because these workers are often immigrants, and possibly undocumented workers. The LWVOR 2001 position states, “The state should continue to improve the safety of agricultural workplaces for farmworkers.”

Workers are killed in Oregon at greater rates than in neighboring states. Agricultural workers in Oregon often suffer harm from the work that they are asked to do in extreme temperatures and with toxic substances. Outdoor workers account for 20% of heat-related deaths in the US. The chances of injury and death are increased for undocumented agricultural workers who fear retaliation if they refuse dangerous work--and thus remain silent.

LWVOR sees this clarification of the right of non-retaliation for refusing dangerous work as part of their duty to protect the safety and rights of all Americans. This is not a new right, nor is it a right given without safeguards.

Please vote Yes for SB 907A! Clarify the right of non-retaliation by taking it beyond an administrative rule into statute within ORS 654.062, the Oregon Safety Employment Act.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Claudia Keith in black ink.

Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Nancy Rosenberger in black ink.

Nancy Rosenberger
Immigration and Other
Rights Portfolio