

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.

February 11, 2025

To: Chair Zach Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and Representatives McDonald, Munoz, Wright, and Yunker House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: **HB 3011** – Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports HB 3011 which requires the establishment of an Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund.

LWVOR believes that the State of Oregon should set requirements for adequate training for caregivers and ensure those training opportunities are available. This could include state provision of training and/or state incentives for others to provide training.

A 2023 study conducted by League members reported "The workforce for child care, afterschool, and summer care tends to be part-time and entry level with the challenges associated with those characteristics...Staff who interact directly with children are frequently high-school or college students or people with limited education."

A frequent comment of staff surveyed for the study was that training is often not affordable or conveniently scheduled for care staff, and they cannot afford tuition for ongoing training without scholarships.

We ask that you support HB 3011.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Lisa Bentson Jean View Katie Riley President LWVOR Social Policy Child Care

Lisa Bentson President LWVOR

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Child Care

**Cc: Representative Courtney Neron**