



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: [Rep. Jason Kropf](#), Chair, [House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 2233](#) - Related to legal services program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 2233, based on the U.S. League's position that pre- and post-release programs should prepare as well as assess the needs of people re-entering the community. These programs should be focused on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities.

Re*Membering, authorized by the Legislature as a pilot program in 2019 to provide legal assistance to people incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, has a proven track record for providing reentry-focused legal assistance for the women of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and we strongly urge your support for its continuation.

Formerly incarcerated people face a daunting number of reentry challenges, many of which are related to unresolved legal issues exacerbated by incarceration. Several examples include obtaining a divorce from an abusive spouse, gaining child custody, facilitating payment of debts, expunging evictions, or avoiding student loan defaults. Without help to deal with these issues, those exiting the correctional system have an uphill battle for a successful transition to society and a much greater risk of recidivism.

It is well known that poverty, domestic abuse, mental illness, and substance abuse are key factors in the incarceration cycle. For many exiting our correctional facilities, breaking the cycle requires more than determination. It also requires the help of skilled professionals to navigate the complex legal system and increase the odds for success. We believe Re*Membering is an effective program that deserves ongoing funding to continue its excellent work.

We urge your support for HB 2233.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

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

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee Member