



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 6, 2025

To: Co-Chair Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair Ricki Ruiz, Senators Frederick and Weber, and Representatives McLain, Nguyen, Wright, and Yunker, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Re: SB 5514 – Appropriates moneys to the Department of Early Learning and Care – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports SB 5512 which appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Early Learning and Care for biennial expenses. LWVOR believes that quality child care needs to be available, accessible and affordable to all families for children of all ages and with differing needs.” This position was reaffirmed and expanded in the 2023 study conducted by League members that reported “An effective childcare system benefits the entire economy.” Research shows that, “out-of-school-time (OST) programs influence the participants’ success academically and in future careers. The programs even benefit future generations. The investment is worth it.”

We would particularly like to ask for continued and expanded support in the following priority areas which serve the bold-faced League positions:

Provide financial assistance for child care expenses to low- and middle-income families based on need.

- Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) - Oregon’s state-funded Head Start and Early Head Start program, which provides comprehensive services to families with children through age five who live at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
- Preschool Promise - serves families with three- and four-year-olds who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Free, high-quality preschool programs are offered in a variety of settings, including licensed home- and center-based care programs.

Equity, respect, and the needs of diverse cultures should be incorporated into curriculum planning to benefit all children.

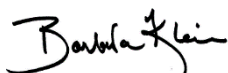
- Early Childhood Equity Fund - provides resources to community-based organizations and programs that offer culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs.

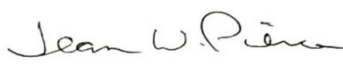
Encourage employer involvement in the child care system.

- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) - subsidizes consistent, quality child care to eligible low- income families while they are working or attending school. Our 2023 report noted that the waitlist continues to be long (currently over 8,500) and these families need the support but cannot obtain it. This hurts not only the children but also the families, the employers who need employees, and the state which would benefit from the addition of tax-paying employees.

We ask that you support SB 5512.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.


Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR


Jean Pierce
Social Policy Coordinator


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CC: Alyssa Chatterjee, Director, Department of Early Learning and Care