

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.

April 2, 2025

To: Chair, Khanh Pham, Vice-chair Anderson and members of the

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Re: <u>SB 1155</u> – Assist pregnant persons and family to attain stable housing – SUPPORT

<u>SB 1155</u> directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to create a viable path to assist low-income pregnant persons and their families to find safe, accessible and affordable housing. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

OHCS will give priority to applicants by modifying their existing scoring criteria. Owners of rental housing projects financed by OHCS will be allowed to set aside housing units designated for program participants. Fortunately, this housing will be subject to a state affordable housing covenant, in which housing affordability for low- income households is maintained for at least ten years.

Without the challenges of housing instability, this pilot program will create opportunities for low-income households to pursue goals for the future. The size of rental units will need to address the needs of pregnant persons and their immediate families. Housing is to be located near employment, schools, community and health services and commercial centers.

By passing <u>SB 1155</u>, OHCS can administer this vital housing program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We urge your support for <u>SB</u> <u>1155</u>.

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