



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 16, 2025

To: Chair [Representative Pam Marsh](#), Vice Chairs [Representative Tom Andersen](#),
[Representative Vikki Breese Iverson](#), [House Committee on Housing and Homelessness](#)

Re: [SB 814 A](#) – Long-term rent assistance for youth – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 814-A. Administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), the bill would expand the eligibility criteria for the agency's existing Long-Term Rent Assistance Program. Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) youth under the age of 25 would have an opportunity to access long-term rental assistance to help achieve a greater level of housing security. This measure also requires OHCS to consult with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), among other stakeholders.

The League believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most-effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.

Youth assisted will be exiting a childcare center or a correctional facility. At least 14% of youth who were committed to OYA since October, 2022 have already experienced some period of homelessness. Studies indicate that housing instability increases the risk for recidivism. Achieving success for young adults following involvement with the juvenile justice system is challenging at best. Many of these youth have experienced trauma and instability in their childhood and young adult life. Finding suitable housing with a criminal record and no rental experience poses additional hurdles. This bill will assist youth by providing a safe and stable home so they can devote their attention to employment, education, and family.

Investing in the success of youth could help them achieve long term stability and success. The League supports providing stable housing as a solid foundation for growth and opportunity.

We urge your support for SB 814-A.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Aiona".

Debbie Aiona
Housing Portfolio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy G. Donovan".

Nancy Donovan
Housing Portfolio