



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 3, 2012

To: Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee
Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson, Chair
Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair

From: League of Women Voters of Oregon

Re: SB 1580 – Coordinated Care Organizations - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a position to promote a health care system that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all residents and controls health care costs.

The League appreciates the efforts of the Oregon Health Authority and the Senate and House Health Care Committees to design the Coordinated Care Organizations for Medicaid recipients. The League supports the medical home model and the delivery of health care by a team of health professionals. Consumer rights and responsibilities are essential to a patient centered system. The inclusion of dual eligible individuals is also important as they are low-income and are restricted to Medicare benefits. Cost control will be a critical function with preventive care potentially saving long term expenditures.

The elements of the new system have been debated for many months and years, leading up to this final implementation. The League looks forward to the operation of the new health care programs within the community provider networks. The League is concerned that all providers be allowed to participate in this new system without regard to the size of the organizations. In the rural areas, smaller clinics can provide care within their local communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator

CC: House Health Care Committee
Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Co-Chair
Rep. Jim Thompson, Co-Chair