



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old 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 10, 2017

To: House Judiciary Committee
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair

Re: **HB 3078**, the Safety and Savings Act, **Support**

The League of Women Voters has a position on Adult Corrections that strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration where possible. In this time of scarce resources, implementing the components of the Safety and Savings Act will save significant amounts of money, both now and into the future.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT: Diverting selected offenders into strong community programs, combining accountability and support services, instead of sending them to prison, reduces the need for prison beds.

EXPANDING TRANSITIONAL LEAVE: Lengthening the period of transitional leave would be an immediate cost saving. It costs roughly \$97 a day to house someone behind bars and only about \$30 a day to provide housing and wraparound services to assure a successful reentry into society.

FAMILY SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE: Keeping children with their parents in the community under strong supervision and individualized support not only saves the cost of prison beds, but avoids the expense of foster care, as well as the trauma to the children of being separated from their mothers or fathers for extended periods of time.

REALIGN DRUG AND PROPERTY CRIMES: Seventy percent of the women in prison in Oregon are there for addiction related crimes. Instead of wasting funds on expensive incarceration, we should be working to get these women into treatment to address the root causes of their behavior, rather just focusing on ineffective punishment-oriented responses. We should be viewing addiction as a public health issue and look for the most effective ways to help these women lead a positive life style.

INVEST IN VICTIM SERVICES: Women who are seeking to escape from an abusive relationship often have no place to turn. We believe that Oregon should continue to fund services for survivors of domestic violence as a part of the justice reinvestment program. In addition to providing a compassionate response to the mother, we are also creating a stable environment for the children.

The bottom line is that HB 3078 will save the state money. We can no longer afford to waste state dollars on excessive incarceration. Passing HB 3078 will move Oregon in a constructive direction. The League of Women Voters urges your support for HB 3078.

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in black ink.

Karen Nibler
LWVOR Social Policy Coordinator