



*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.*

February 8, 2024

To: Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz and Committee Members  
[House Committee on Higher Education](#)

Re: [HB4162](#) – Relating to higher education affordability– Support

HB4162 is designed to help make the costs of higher education more affordable. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the bill because it is consistent with our position which states:

**The State General Fund should give high priority to financial aid for students and general operating funds.**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has reported that – despite recent increases in state funding - Oregon still ranks [36<sup>th</sup> nationally](#) for average per student funding for public higher education. This helps explain the Education Data Initiative, which has reported that the tuition and fees required for public 4-year colleges in Oregon rank in the top third in the nation. Furthermore, tuition and fees only account for [47% of the total cost](#) of attendance of these institutions.

We urge your **Support for HB 4162.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean W. Pierce".

Jean Pierce  
Social Policy Coordinator