

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.

May 14, 2025

To: Senator Kayse Jama, Chair, Senate Committee On Rules

Re: HB 2930 – Conflict of interest for public officials' household members – Support

The League supports HB 2930, to re-establish the words "member of the household" in statute for consideration of conflicts of interest for public officials, based on our position to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

As the staff summary for HB 2930 shows:

"Member of the household" in statute now means any person who resides with the public official or candidate. From 1993 to 2007, a "member of household" meant any relative who resided with the public official, and from 1975 to 1993 it meant the "spouse and children of a public official."

We further consider the balance of transparency and privacy, recognizing the inherent relationships of public officials' household members to their exposure and involvement. For privacy, we have advocated to extend privacy protections, for example in shielding public officials' home addresses, reported as vulnerable to harassing attention. For transparency, the rephrasing in this bill considers members of public officials' households for their possible conflict of interest roles.

We urge your Support for HB 2930. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Lisa Bento

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