



*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 4, 2025

To: [Representative Zach Hudson](#)  
[Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce](#)  
[Development](#)

Re: [HB 2550](#) – Qualifications for the Oregon Promise Program – **Support**

The bill would increase the number of people eligible to apply for Oregon Promise Grants. The League supports this, based on our position that the State General Fund should give high priority to financial aid for students.

The Oregon Promise program helps cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college. Currently, applicants must be recent Oregon graduates who have applied during their senior year or immediately after completing the GED test. HB2550 would broaden the pool of students eligible for the grants by removing requirements that they be recent graduates and that they be in-state students.

It is important to expand the pool of students eligible for the grants, since tuition and fees for Oregon's community colleges are the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. This is likely the cause of a 32% decrease in enrollment in community colleges over the past 10 years.

We urge your **Support** for HB2550.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson  
President LWVOR

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

Jean Pierce  
Social Policy Coordinator