



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 8, 2021

To: [House Committee on Education](#)  
Chair, Representative Teresa Alonso Leon  
Vice-Chair, Representative Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chair, Representative Suzanne Weber

Re: [HB 3350](#) - prescribes requirements for providing education to student with disability during COVID-19 emergency - **SUPPORT**

The LWVUS supports increased educational opportunity for disadvantaged groups beginning at the preschool level and extending through secondary education. The League of Women Voters believes every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

[HB 3350](#) (Witt) requires the Oregon Department of Education to establish temporary processes, rules and requirements designed to streamline and simplify a proactive process to provide compensatory or recovery educational services to students with a disability who are not receiving, or did not receive, educational services that meet or met the students' educational needs *during the COVID-19 emergency*. The compensatory or recovery educational services must be provided in an individualized manner that mitigates regression or other developmental complications experienced during the COVID-19 emergency and must establish a streamlined and parent-friendly complaint process for parents to resolve claims

LWVOR also wrote testimony in support of a related bill, [SB 747](#) (Gelser), that allows students entering high school beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and continuing through the 2024-2025 school year, to take two extra years to complete their high school education. COVID-19 and the ensuing move to comprehensive distance learning for students throughout Oregon have led to significant enrollment declines across the state. Senate Bill 747 allows students who may have had difficulties engaging with distance learning two extra years to complete their high school education.

Many mandates under IDEA, including IEPs, have traditionally been referred to as “unfunded mandates” saying that schools “must provide” but not providing adequate funding. We urge the Legislature, Oregon Department of Education, individual School Districts and Education Service Districts to explore the use of Covid federal funds provided under [Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds](#) (ESSER) or other federal funds first, before utilizing other sources of state funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

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