February 23, 2017

To: Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
        House Committee on Education

Re: HJR 14 promoting Civics Education, **Comment**

The League of Women Voters has supported Civics Education for many decades and has provided free classroom materials for voluntary Civics Education and Mock Elections across the state. Yet, we know that with the looming deficit for funding existing education and safety net social services this biennium, now is not the time to impose additional expenses or requirements on individual school districts, the state Department of Education, the Chief Education Office, nor individual students.

We commend ***voluntary efforts*** of school districts to offer opportunities for civics education. We acknowledge that Oregon Department of Education for Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards has already developed core standards and grade level standards in kindergarten through high school in civics education. Therefore, we do not see the see the need this bill with mandatory requirements for districts, ODE and the Chief Education Office. The intent is already being met allowing each school district autonomy to meet these core standards and grade level standards in a way that best meets the needs of their students.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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