



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22 2017

I am Brenda Koegler, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas **IN OPPOSITION TO HB 200 by Burkett**. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

Women's health and access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including safe, legal abortions, are priority issues for the League and its members around the state. Our position on this issue, like other League positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful process involving the participation of 25 local Leagues representing more than 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state of Texas.

This proposed bill would impose unnecessary prohibitions on women seeking abortions and their physicians. It would prohibit the procedure known as "partial birth abortion," a procedure already prohibited under federal law, and would also prohibit the donation of fetal tissue derived from abortions for research.

The prohibition of "partial birth" abortion is an unnecessary duplication of federal law and addresses problems that don't exist – apparently for the purpose of intimidating women seeking legal abortions and their medical caregivers. The ban on donating fetal tissue is also unnecessary and intrusive: women who have abortions should be empowered to donate the fetal tissue for important medical research.

The League again thanks this Committee for the opportunity to express our views and to speak out on behalf of women's reproductive health and rights.

For additional information, please contact: Julie Lowenberg Women's Health Issue Chair, jmlowenberg@sbcglobal.net; 214-352-4667.

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization that has fought since 1919 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. It represents more than 5000 members and supporters throughout Texas.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The member-driven organization of women and men encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.