



TESTIMONY
HB 647

House Human Services Committee
March 19, 2009

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) supports **HB 647** that, along with its companion **SB 349**, addresses extending eligibility for Children's Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) from six to twelve months. The League also supports the duplicate bills: **HB 843**, **HB 2199**, and **HB 2204**.

Extending the enrollment period for Children's Medicaid would provide health insurance for more of Texas' poorest children. It would give them access to quality health care, make it more likely that they would find a medical home, increase their participation in preventive care, and decrease the likelihood of expensive emergency room visits. The current requirement that eligible children re-enroll in Medicaid twice a year doubles the burden for both families and the state. It doubles the chances that an eligible child will lose coverage. It doubles the workload of the already-overloaded system.

The League appreciates the legislature's ongoing concern for the wellbeing of its most vulnerable citizens. Support of the bills that extend eligibility for Children's Medicaid will further exhibit that concern.

LWV-TX urges you to support **HB 647**. Thank you.