



**League of Women Voters  
of Texas**

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**TESTIMONY  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
SB 182 (Patrick)  
March 19, 2009**

The League of Women Voters (LWV-TX) is a non-partisan, political organization with 32 local Leagues and 2500 members across the state. Women's health and access to safe, legal abortions is very important to our members.

LWV-TX **opposes** SB 182 (Patrick) that would add to the informed consent to abortion statute a requirement that a woman seeking an abortion review with her physician an ultrasound image of the fetus, with the physician required to describe the image in detail and make audible the heartbeat (if present) for the woman to hear. Adding this provision into the existing law serves no useful purpose and, rather than protecting women's health, would seem to be aimed at intimidating and discouraging women from obtaining abortions. The decision to end a pregnancy is a private one that should be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor, and the proposed law would impose an insensitive and unnecessary intrusion upon the physician/patient relationship.

LWV-TX appreciates this opportunity to express our views. Thank you for your consideration.