



League of Women Voters
of Texas

**TESTIMONY
SB 592
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
April 7, 2009**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX), a nonpartisan, political organization with 32 local Leagues across the state, strongly supports **SB 592 (Van De Putte)**. Texas has the highest rate of repeat births to teenagers in the nation, and SB 592 seeks to address this alarming statistic by allowing an unmarried minor parent to consent to medical treatment and services related to contraception. We believe that this measure, by giving already parenting minors greater access to contraception, would reduce the incidence of repeat births. Parenting minors are already at increased risk of poverty and dependence; access to contraception will help protect them from repeat births and further vulnerability to such risks.

The League thanks the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for your leadership in giving an early hearing to SB 592. We hope that passage of this measure will be a priority for the Texas Legislature during this session.