



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS HB 2282 HOUSE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

I am Barbara Frandsen, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2282**. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to comment on Early Childhood Education.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports quality Pre-K programs. We believe that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes and supports that:

- Quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary, full-day early learning experiences should be available to all children, with opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or special needs.
- Early childhood education programs should include parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services; and
- Research linking state and quality local community partnerships.

HB 2282 does all this, offering a gold standard quality program with foundation funding. This bill allows a district's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to make agency data available and accessible to parents and the public. Accountability components are included.

Class size also impacts the quality of teacher-child interactions; **HB 2282** does correct our current system class size inequalities. Overcrowded classes impact social-emotional behaviors, judgment and decision making.

Children who enter school with a basic knowledge of math and reading are more likely than their peers to experience later academic success, attain higher levels of education, and secure employment. Absence of these and other skills may contribute to even greater disparities long-term. Parents, educators, and our workforce employers want Texas children to have a smart start.

In conclusion, we **support HB 2282** and know it needs funding. Quality programs provide a strong foundation for education success. Education is vital to workforce development and our future.

For additional information, please contact: Marlene S. Lobberecht, Early Childhood Issue Chair, marlene@lobberecht.com, 281-723-1848.

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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 5,000 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.