



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

**House Business and Industry Committee**

**March 6, 2017**

I am Margaret Johnson testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 329 and speak to you today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas **supports HB 329**. The League promotes policies of early intervention for children at risk, promoting the wellbeing, development, and safety of all children. Like other League positions, it 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.

We support this bill encouraging state agency worksites to develop policies on breast-feeding and then add them to the existing lists of mother-friendly businesses. Making breast-feeding safe, private, accessible, hygienic, and timely creates an environment that allows for women to provide for their baby and continue to be effective at work. Babies that are fed breast milk have the advantage of milk that is anti-viral, anti-allergen, with antibodies and hormones that promote growth, calmness, fewer illnesses, and better digestion. Breast-feeding or pumping during the workday allows new mothers to continue to produce adequate quantities of milk. They can also be more productive at work as they are relieved of the stress of worry about how to take care of the basic motherly duty of feeding their baby.

Having a written policy promotes a clear understanding on the part of the agency and breast-feeding mother as to what is provided for her and clear expectations for how the policy is to be implemented to provide a setting that allows for breaks, hygienic water supply in a private area that is not a bathroom with an appropriate place to store the breast milk.

***For additional information, please contact: Bonnie Anndora Garner RN BSN***

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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 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.