



TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
HB 1229
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

I am Aimee Mobley Turney testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas IN SUPPORT OF HB 1229. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to share the League of Women Voters of Texas' position on this bill.

We support HB 1229. Our position on gun safety, like other League positions, 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.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports this proposed legislation creating an offense if a person sells, rents, leases, loans, or gives a firearm to a person the name of whom the actor knows is included in the terrorist screening database maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

HB 1229 has the potential to close the "terror gap" loophole that lets known or suspected terrorists buy guns.

On May 3, 2015, Elton Simpson and Nadir Hamid Soofi shot and killed one security officer in Garland, Texas, in a planned attack on an event displaying cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Simpson had been convicted for lying to federal agents in a terrorist investigation and the FBI had alerted police that he posed a danger.ⁱ

On November 5, 2009, 13 people were shot and killed and 30 others were wounded by Major Nidal Hasan. Hasan could pass a background check and buy a handgun even though he was under investigation by the FBI for links to terrorism. The FBI agents investigating Hasan were never informed that he was trying to purchase a weapon.ⁱⁱ

According to research conducted by the New England Journal of Medicine, 82 percent of gun owners and 75 percent of NRA members support closing the terror gap.ⁱⁱⁱ

HB 1229 is an effective measure for saving lives and protecting the public preventing dangerous individuals from securing a gun and possibly harming someone.

For additional information, please contact: Aimee Mobley Turney, Gun Safety Issue Chair, president@lwvhouston.org, 713.784.2923

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.

ⁱ Adam Goldman Craig Whitlock Marice Richter. "One Texas Suspect Was Accused in 2010 FBI Terror Case." *The Washington Post*. N.p., 5 May 2015. Web. 23 Apr. 2017.

ⁱⁱ Thomas, Pierre, and Jason Ryan. "Alleged Fort Hood Shooter Bought Gun, Despite Ongoing Terrorism Investigation." *ABC News*. ABC News Network, 11 Nov. 2009. Web. 23 Apr. 2017.

ⁱⁱⁱ Barry, Colleen et al. *After Newtown — Public Opinion On Gun Policy And Mental Illness*. The New England Journal of Medicine, 2013. Web. 23 Apr. 2017.