



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
HB 2034
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 2034. 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 2034. 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 that closes the internet gun sale background check loophole by requiring of all internet gun sales in Texas a national instant criminal background check in a manner required by 18 U.S.C. Section 922 and verifies that the person to whom the firearm is being sold may lawfully possess a firearm.

A 2015 *American Journal of Public Health* article estimated that Connecticut's implementation of a handgun permit-to-purchase law was associated with a 40% reduction in Connecticut's firearm homicide rates during the first 10 years that the law was in place. By contrast, there was no evidence for a reduction in no firearm homicides.ⁱ

An article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on a poll done in January 2013 by two entities at Johns Hopkins University -- the Department of Health Policy and Management and the Center for Gun Policy and Research -- found that 74 percent of NRA members supported requiring background checks for all gun sales. (The margin of error was seven points.)ⁱⁱ

A CBS News/New York Times poll, also from January 2013, found that background checks on all potential gun buyers were favored by 85 percent of NRA households.ⁱⁱⁱ And a February 2013 poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found that 74 percent of people in NRA households favored making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks.^{iv}

HB 2034 is an effective measure for saving lives and protecting the public that even NRA households overwhelmingly support.

For additional information, please contact: Aimee Mobley Turney, Gun Safety Issue Chair, president@lwwhouston.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 Rudolph, Kara E., Elizabeth A. Stuart, Jon S. Vernick, and Daniel W. Webster. "Association Between Connecticut's Permit-to-Purchase Handgun Law and Homicides." *American Journal of Public Health* 105.8 (2015): 49-54. Web. 23 Apr. 2017.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ "The New York Times/CBS Poll on Guns." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 17 Jan. 2013. Web. 24 Apr. 2017.

^{iv} Gewurz, Danielle. "Section 2: Opinions of Gun Owners, Non-Gun Owners." *Pew Research Center for the People and the Press*. Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 12 Mar. 2013. Web. 24 Apr. 2017.