



TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
HB 2735
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

I am Aimee Mobley Turney testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas AGAINST HB 2735. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to share the League of Women Voters of Texas' position on this bill.

We oppose HB 2735. 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 opposes this proposed legislation allowing first responders such as firefighters and EMTs to carry a firearm while on duty.

First responders carrying concealed weapons may have the best of intentions, believing that carrying guns will protect themselves from some imagined, unforeseen danger. The reality, however, is that firefighters and EMTs could create new risks of intentional or accidental shootings while performing their very stressful duties in emotionally charged situations.

In stark contrast, police officers who often accompany firefighters and EMTs receive hundreds of hours of training in marksmanship and non-violent conflict resolution, including role-playing real-life scenarios, to ensure that their firearms are carried safely and not fired carelessly.

HB 2735 has the potential to place our first responders and those they are called to assist at risk of further injury or death by turning the first responder into a perceived threat when carrying a firearm.

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.