



**TESTIMONY**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**  
**HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**HB 4200**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 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 4200. 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 4200. 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 with its innovative steps of:

- Creating an offense for those who attempt to acquire a firearm knowing they are prohibited from doing so and
- Requiring a licensed firearms dealer to notify the Department of Public Safety when a person attempts to purchase a gun unlawfully.

HB 4200 has the potential to help victims of domestic abuse, stalking and other violent crimes when the Department of Public Safety is notified that a person under the direction of an active protective order attempts to purchase a firearm.

A 2009 research report submitted to the US Department of Justice found a strong proclivity towards further illegal behavior by denied gun purchasers, determining that a third of convicted criminals rejected when attempting to buy a gun are caught breaking another law during the next five years<sup>1</sup>.

HB 4200 is an effective measure for saving lives and protecting the general public by providing a tool that can be used to arrest dangerous individuals before they can secure a gun and possibly harm someone.

**For additional information, please contact: Aimee Mobley Turney, Gun Safety Issue Chair, [president@lwvhouston.org](mailto: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.

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<sup>i</sup> James M. Tien, Ph.D., Michael F. Cahn, David M. Einstein, Ke Pei (2009) *Recidivism of Denied Prospective Firearm Purchasers* (Document No. 222677, Award No. 2004-BJ-BX-K001)