



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
COMMITTEE CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE
MARCH 13, 2017**

I am Brenda Koegler 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 269 and speak to you today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports HB 269. Our position on human trafficking and particularly sex trafficking in Texas, like other League positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful process involving the participation of 25 local Leagues representing nearly 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state.

Our League position on human trafficking, adopted in 2014 after two years of comprehensive study, states that we consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery. We support the protection of victims of human trafficking.

The League supports HB 269 and expunction of convictions for certain victims of human trafficking or compelling prostitution.

We support the implementation of effective strategies to divert victims of human trafficking into justice and rescue programs that provide access to services such as counseling and job training. Expunction of prostitution felony convictions is a step in that direction.

This bill would provide some relief for victims of trafficking by establishing a judicial process to set aside certain convictions and a process for the expunctions of those convictions for certain victims of trafficking convicted of prostitution.

We compliment Representative Thompson for her thorough understanding of the needs of this very special population. We request that you approve HB 269.

Thank you.

For additional information, please contact: Marguerite (Meg) Scott-Johnson, LWV-TX Human Trafficking Issues Chair, LWVTX.Trafficking@gmail.com, C: 713-724-4168.

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.

