



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

## TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS Criminal Jurisprudence March 13, 2017

I am Brenda Koegler testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas speaking in support of HB 81. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports Bill HB 81, reducing penalties for possession of between one and two ounces of marihuana. Our position on Drug Laws and Policies, 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 considers substance abuse and drug addiction public health issues. We support prevention education programs for drug abuse and drug treatment in lieu of incarceration. We support the provision of HB 81 that requires education on substance abuse and the provision to reduce penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana. We believe that it is good public policy and is consistent with our position on the issue. We urge your passage of this bill.

**For additional information, please contact: Elaine Talarski, [bookdoll99@gmail.com](mailto:bookdoll99@gmail.com) , (210) 521-5496**

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.