



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
COMMITTEE STATE AFFAIRS  
HB 29  
MARCH 22, 2017**

I am Brenda Koegler testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in support of HB 29. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

Our position on human trafficking 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. The League position on human trafficking was adopted in 2014 after two years of comprehensive study. It states that we consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery. We support the funding and implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes

- effective strategies for prosecution of human trafficker offenders,
- essential protection services and remedies for victims and survivors of human trafficking; and
- training programs for awareness of signs of human trafficking.

Specifically we support Section 12 regarding the human trafficking awareness training for Commercial Drivers License holders as quality instructional materials are needed for training holders of commercial drivers licenses to identify and to report possible incidents of human trafficking. Since Truckers Against Trafficking began training truckers, they have made over 1589 calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center resulting in 503 cases of sex trafficking involving 1098 victims. Of those victims, 299 were minors. The Department of Justice National Conference on Human Trafficking identified I-10 as one of the main routes for human traffickers with Houston and El Paso identified with a very high levels of trafficking.

We support Section 19 with the additions for the OAG's Human trafficking Prevention Task Force.

We support recommended changes to the Penal Code.

The need is great for addressing human trafficking in Texas. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center lists Texas as second in the nation for incidents of human trafficking.

We compliment Representative Thompson for her thorough understanding of the needs of this very special population request that you approve HB 29. Thank you.

For additional information, please contact: Marguerite (Meg) Scott-Johnson, LWV-TX Human Trafficking Issues Chair, [LWVTX.Trafficking@gmail.com](mailto: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.