



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION
SB 128
MARCH 22, 2017**

I am Grace Chimene testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in support of SB 128. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas affirms the need addressed in SB 128. 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 state and local governments in cooperation with non-governmental agencies to fund and to provide education and awareness programs on human trafficking. This training is to provide needed information for commercial truckers to know how to identify potential victims of human trafficking, and how to report the need for law enforcement investigations. 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 human trafficking.

The League supports SB128 requiring an applicant for a commercial driver's license to successfully complete a training course in recognition and prevention of human trafficking.

In SB 128 filed on November 14, 2016 we note that Section 522.022 reads, "the department may consult with organizations that develop training courses on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking". This is useful, as quality instructional materials are needed for holders of commercial drivers licenses to be trained to notice and to report possible incidents of human trafficking. Since truckers have been trained by Truckers Against Trafficking 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.

We compliment Senator Garcia for her consideration of the needs of this very special population. We request that you approve SB 128. 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.