



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
SB4
Senate State Affairs Committee
February 2, 2017**

I am Dixie Davis, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to speak today in opposition to SB 4 on the subject of Immigration Enforcement.

The League of Women Voters of the US recently issued the following statement “The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants. The League of Women Voters supports cities, towns, counties, and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants.”

The passage of SB 4 would penalize municipalities, counties, and universities for refusing to cooperate with federal agencies in gathering information, detaining, and deportation of undocumented immigrants and immigrants. The negative effect of this bill would be wide spread. It would breed fear and distrust of our law enforcement officers who have sworn to protect and serve their communities.

Law enforcement officials in some of our largest Texas cities have stated that they do not welcome this added burden and recognize that it would tear the fabric of respect, trust and cooperation that is needed between the public and law enforcement. Their job would become harder. The communities they serve would become more dangerous as immigrants and families of immigrants would become fearful of contacting the police when a crime was committed for fear of deportation. Our neighbors deserve not to live in fear. When they need a police officer, they should not fear that officer more than the criminal who has violated their home or their person.

Texas’ immigrant families need to live without the fear of their families being torn apart by deportation because a family member is stopped for a minor offense. These families could lose their primary breadwinner. Mothers could find themselves left struggling to raise American children now fatherless and they would be forced to rely on help from governmental agencies.

We are all in agreement in that we want a safe and secure Texas. To impose this law would not create that Texas; but one where fear and distrust would thrive. This is not our Texas, this is not who we are.

For additional information, please contact: Gloria Suarez Sasser, gloriassasser@gmail.com (830) 556-2887

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 3,900 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.