



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 15, 2017

I am Amanda Boudreault testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments **in opposition to SB 8 by Senator Schwertner relating to abortion** and to speak to you today.

Women's health and access to comprehensive reproductive health services, including safe, legal abortions, are priority issues for the League and its members around the state. Our position on this issue, like other League positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful process involving the participation of 24 local leagues representing more than 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state of Texas.

This proposed bill would impose unnecessary prohibitions on women seeking abortions and their physicians. It would prohibit the procedure known as "partial birth abortion," a procedure already prohibited under federal law, and would also prohibit the sale of fetal tissue for research, a practice also already banned under federal law. This measure is an unnecessary duplication of federal law and addresses problems that don't exist – apparently for the purpose of intimidating women seeking legal abortions and their medical caregivers.

The League again thanks this Committee for the opportunity to express our views and to speak out on behalf of women's reproductive health and rights.

For additional information, please contact: Julie Lowenberg (jmlowenberg@sbcglobal.net; 214-352-4667)

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 5,000 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.