



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS LICENSING & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

I am Brenda Koegler, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas IN SUPPORT of BILL 2629. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

We SUPPORT BILL 2629. Our position on Human trafficking, 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.

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 the provision and funding of education and awareness programs on human trafficking including trainings to identify and to assist victims or potential victims of human trafficking for all persons who might come into contact with victims.

It is known that one of the ways traffickers act as “boyfriends or daddies” to potential victims is to initially promise and provide glamorous lifestyles of hair do’s, fancy nails, and expensive shoes and purses. These victims are usually teenagers whom traffickers have met in malls or other places where teens hangout. Houston, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia have the highest reported cases of child sex trafficking in the country. According to the December 2016 University of Texas research report there are approximately 79,000 child sex trafficking victims in Texas. The greatest numbers of trafficked teenagers are from US homes and not brought across the border.

It is most important for cosmetologists to know the signs and behaviors of traffickers and their victims, and to know how to respond to safely report suspected trafficking.

We compliment Representative Thompson for her thorough understanding of the needs of this vulnerable population of teens and of the business of human trafficking. We request that you approve HB 2629.

For additional information, please contact: Marguerite (Meg) Scott-Johnson, LWV-TX Human Trafficking Issues Chair, megdscott@earthlink.net, 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



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citizens in government and seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy of positions based on extensive issue study and consensus.