

**\*Action Alert: Public School Finance  
SB 1000 (Shapiro)**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) is asking all members to oppose SB 1000, a voucher bill for students with autism. This bill would authorize public funds for non-governmental special education programs for children with autism. A hearing on SB 1000 was held by the Senate Education Committee, March 27, 2007. It was voted favorably by the committee.

**Reasons to Oppose:**

The bill does not fully meet the special needs of all children with autism.

Not all children with autism would be able to take advantage of this program, since not all would be accepted into these special programs.

Other problems with this bill are that some families would have difficulty with transportation, special programs in rural areas are not always available, and teachers in private schools are not required to meet the special education certification that is required for public school teachers.

Not all parents would be able to afford the cost of education beyond what a voucher would cover.

This bill would take away public school funds by allowing the transfer of funds from public schools to non-governmental community based establishments that provide educational needs of students with autism. The estimated cost taken from public schools at \$14,000 per student is \$214,948,000.

The LWV-TX position opposing vouchers is as follows:

- supports a sufficient level of state support to public schools to ensure that all Texas children receive a high level of education.
- “opposes the voucher system as well as choice options that do not promote racial integration and/or equal access to quality education.”

**What you can do:**

On March 29, 2007 please call your Texas District Senator and District House of Representative and tell them you oppose SB 1000.