



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
Senate State Affairs Committee
SB 16 (Patrick)
February 9, 2011**

The LWV is a non-partisan, political organization with 32 local Leagues and 2500 members across the state. Women's health and access to safe, legal abortions is very important to our members. LWV **opposes** SB 16 (Patrick) that would add to the informed consent to abortion statute a requirement that a woman seeking an abortion review with her physician an ultrasound image of the fetus, with the physician required to describe the image in detail and make audible the heartbeat (if present) for the woman to hear.

Adding this provision into the existing law serves no useful purpose. Rather than protecting women's health, the measure seems to be aimed at intimidating and discouraging women from obtaining legal abortions. The decision to end a pregnancy is a private one that should be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor, and the proposed law would impose an insensitive and unnecessary intrusion upon the physician/patient relationship. It is ironic that the proponents of this bill have been outspoken opponents of health care reform, describing it as government interference in health care. Yet these same people, in their support of SB 16, are very eager to impose government regulations on women's reproductive health decisions.

LWV appreciates this opportunity to express our views. Thank you for your consideration.